

the suffrage among the rural people, who, if heads are to count, ought to count as heads?

But we shall not stray into all the questions which the mere mention of the subject calls up. We confine ourselves, just now, to one special grievance, the small boroughs. The power they pretend to represent is represented elsewhere, so they are unnecessary. They make the influence of particular families too strong so they are unjust. Let their destruction and absorption be provided for in the Government bill, and the Government may rely on a great deal of the independent support above-mentioned.

Besides, it will bring on a practical question. Ballot and Suffrage admit of speculative discussion, but he who defends the boroughs we are speaking of limits his ground very distinctly. He must boldly proclaim that half-a-dozen families require special protection, though notoriously possessed of almost omnipotent wealth. Everybody will then know how to deal with him.

And it is time that the country was allowed a little inkling of what it may expect; for the cashiered ministers of the last few years are exceedingly busy. Whig nobles have been observed in snug conference with the members for manufacturing towns; and country as well as London houses boast "gilded saloons." The unlucky display of temper by Mr. Bright has afforded an admirable opportunity to intriguers of preaching again that *dolent* moderation in Reform, mingled with sly depreciation of it, which practically means Whig patrician ascendancy, and will leave the difficulty to be met all over again in a few years.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE

The Court is at Compiègne; and there is little to report in the way of political news. The French journals themselves are much more busy with Great Britain and her constitution than with their own affairs.

The Prefect of Police has issued a notice that all wine shops, *cafés*, billiard rooms, and other places of that description, both in Paris and in the Banlieue, are to be closed at eleven o'clock at night all the year round, and not to be opened before six o'clock in the morning from the 15th of October to the 15th of March, nor before sunrise from the 15th of March to the 15th of October. No one can be received or kept in the house after the hour of closing.

The Government is gradually introducing and establishing European principles of law into Algeria, to the exclusion of those drawn from Mahometanism which have so long prevailed.

SPAIN.

The elections have so far resulted in a great success for the Government. In the new Cortes the opposition will be most insignificant in numbers; and yet we hear of ministerial crises, much as ever.

Conferences have taken place between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the French and English Ambassadors, relative to the affair with Mexico, which, we are told, will be settled in a manner worthy of Spain.

The expedition against Riff was to start on the 8th. It consists of eight steam-vessels. No advance will be made into the interior, but the coast will be attacked, and all suspected ships destroyed.

PORTUGAL.

The Portuguese Chambers were opened on the 4th. The King in his speech expressed his regret the negotiations in the affair of the *Charles-Georges* did not lead to a result more conformable to the wishes of his Government.

PRUSSIA.

The following is a complete list of the new Prussian Cabinet:—Prince of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, President of the Council. Von Auerswald, Member of Council, but without a department. Herr Flottwell, Minister of the Interior. Baron von Schleinitz, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Lieutenant-General von Bonin, Minister of War. Baron von Patow, Minister of Finance. Count von Bücker, Minister of Agriculture. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs, Education, and Medical Affairs. Von der Heydt, Minister for Trade and Industry. Dr. Simons, Minister of Justice.

The Prince of Hohenzollern is a Catholic. He is a great friend of the Prince of Prussia.

Letters from Berlin state that the effects of the impulse given to home politics by the nomination of a constitutional Ministry are visible in the unwonted activity shown by the electors in making good their claims at the registration. The registration court, instead of being deserted by the voters, has been thronged by claimants.

The King of Prussia, says a letter from Meran, has become much better, and regained in some measure his former portly appearance. It adds that in conversation his Majesty is "more expansive."

RUSSIA.

The St. Petersburg "Gazette of the Senate" publishes some modifications in the statutes of the Russian Steam Navigation Company, the principal of which are that its steamers, which hitherto have not quitted the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, shall be allowed to go to the ports of England and Belgium. The "Gazette" also gives an account of the election of municipal councillors by the inhabitants of two villages in the suburbs of St. Petersburg. These inhabitants had been attached to the galleys as serfs of the Admiralty since Peter the Great's time, and were forced to work as carpenters. The Emperor Alexander II., by a ukase published in the month of March this year, enfranchised them, giving them the power of becoming citizens of the capital itself, or of forming a distinct community apart. The number of these freed men amounts to 3,435 persons of both sexes.

ITALY.

In Lombardo-Venetia much perturbation is being caused by the alteration of the monetary system, and by the introduction of the new coinage. The old money goes abroad to be converted into ingots, for thus transformed it yields a larger profit than when exchanged against the new.

The Austrian Government is about to erect at Pola three new shipyards, where vessels of the largest tonnage may be constructed. The expense will be a million and a half of florins.

On the anniversary of Maoin's death, despite all the precautions of the police, there was at Venice an immense manifestation. The Church of St. Luke, which was to have been the place of meeting, being occupied by the police, the cemetery of St. Michel de Murano was resorted to instead. As the authorities had not foreseen that there would be a gathering on this spot, the people were able to enter the church without interruption. There a voice from the midst of the crowd sang the "De profundis." Every one responded; and, after having chanted this psalm, and cried "Vive l'Italia," the meeting peacefully dispersed. Austria has thus been reminded that public feeling has not changed since 1848.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

The following are some of the sumptuary enactments just adopted by the Ottoman Porte:—Pipes encircled with precious stones are forbidden. In the public offices neither coffee, pipes, nor sorbets, are henceforth to be served. The functionaries above the grade of *bala* to the highest one alone to be allowed to have two horses in their carriages, and are forbidden to have several domestics on horseback. From the grade of *bala* downwards, functionaries can only use one-horse carriages, and boats with two pairs of oars.

The English consular agent residing at Castelorizo was insulted by some Ottomans. He made a report to the Consul at Rhodes, who demanded from the Governor that the offenders should be removed to Rhodes and punished severely. The Turkish cutter stationed in the port was accordingly sent to bring those persons to Rhodes, but on their arrival the Governor, instead of placing them in confinement, allowed them to walk about the town, alleging that until they should be tried and condemned, he could not punish them by imprisonment. The Consul then went in full uniform to the Governor, and declared to him that his allegation was only a pretext to avoid doing justice, and that if the men were not put in prison at once, he should consider Great Britain insulted. But the Governor refused to change his determination. The Consul in consequence struck his flag, sent a note to the Governor announcing that he had put an end to official relations, and confided to the French Consul the protection of the interests of British subjects. He has sent a report of the whole affair to the English Embassy at Constantinople, and is now awaiting instructions.

At Tripoli, in Barbary, a plot of the dervishes has been discovered, having for its object an attack on the Christians. The Government declared the city in a state of siege, and thus re-established tranquillity.

Mr. Murray, the British Minister at Teheran, has received leave of absence, and is on his way to England.

AMERICA.

GENERAL WALKER threatens Nicaragua again, it seems. Admiral Kellet, commander of the British West India station, has made his appearance in the waters of Central America; and it is said he is instructed, upon application of the Government of the Nicaraguan republic, to use his guns against the filibusters.

There were rumours at Washington that Mr. Dallas, the American Minister at the British Court, would return home next spring.

There appears to be a deficiency in the American treasury, and a duty on tea and coffee is talked of. The expenditure of the present year has been nearly double the amount of revenue received.

The elections are generally in favour of the Opposition.

The expedition against Paraguay was on the point of starting, consisting of three frigates and fourteen other vessels, of which the latter can ascend the rivers, and 3,000 fighting men. The main objects of the war are to compel President Lopez to ratify the late treaty, and to avenge the running down of a United States surveying steamer, which had ascended the river without permission, by a Paraguayan man-of-war.

COCHIN-CHINA.

The French and Spanish forces have landed at Tonon, in Cochin-China. This was done without any loss. Tonon is a port near to the City of Hué, the capital of the Annam empire, of which Cochin-China forms a part. Here Admiral De Genouilly has effected a blockade, and will demand redress for the bad treatment experienced by missionaries.

INSURRECTIONS IN TURKEY.

The following telegram has been received:—

"Beyrouth, Oct. 27th.

"The packet boat from Alexandria has brought news that general agitation is reigning in Asiatic Turkey.

"Insurrections have taken place at several places—Omar Pacha maintaining himself at Bagdad with difficulty.

"The tribes living between Tripoli and Aleppo have revolted.

"The communication is interrupted between Libanus and Tripoli, and between Alexandria and Aleppo.

"The garrison of Beyrouth has been sent against the insurgents.

"The disorders in the Lebanon have been appeased by the Bishop Joseph Jahjah."

THE MORTARA ABDUCTION DEFENDED.—The most singular defence set up for the action of the Church of Rome in the Mortara case comes from Rome itself, and appeared in the official journal of that city. This journal deplores the existence of opinion in the Catholic Church which stands up, not for "the rights of the Church," but for "the Pagan prejudices of modern society." It complains that everything in the estimation of such gives way to ideas of personal liberty, and that they won't submit themselves to the "sovereign domination of Christ." In answer to such statements, a French journal says:—"If at Rome all those are declared to be Pagans who think that natural right should everywhere and always prevail, that the father who has done nothing to forfeit his natural rights, cannot without injustice be deprived of his paternal power, and that the child cannot lawfully and rightly be detained in a convent against his own and his father's will, we declare ourselves Pagan."

ANOTHER MORTARA CASE.—From France we perceive there has been something like another Mortara case, but it ends differently. A murder took place at Caen. The murderer was condemned to hard labour, and so was his wife. They are both Jews, but their children were handed over to the Sisters of Mercy, and were duly baptised. The Chief Rabbi at Paris, however, claimed the children, so that they might be educated as Jews. This demand was resisted by ecclesiastical authority; but civil authority, in the shape of the Minister of the Interior, orders the children to be given up to the Chief Rabbi.

A RICH AND APPROPRIATE PRESENT.—The Princess Mathilde has received from the Sultan a most superb prayer-carpet, the value of which is reported to be between three and four thousand pounds. The phrases from the poets which form the border, such as "Rose of the Garden," "Bud of Delights," &c., are woven in pearls and emeralds into the cloth of gold of which the carpet is composed, while the sentence from the Koran, which occupies the centre, is composed of diamonds of the most costly kind.

MONTALEMBERT.—M. de Montalembert lately left his card for M. Jules Favre, and this visit not unobtrusively gave rise to a rumour that the Count had selected the celebrated republican orator as his counsel. It is now said, however, that M. de Montalembert will be assisted by M. Dufaure, and that the defence of the editor of the "Correspondant" will be undertaken by M. Berryer. The "Patrie" says that several foreign journals have erroneously asserted that if M. de Montalembert should be convicted he will come within the operation of the Public Safety Bill, and may at any time hereafter be transported for life without trial. Such assertions proceed upon a mistaken view of the law of February 27, 1858, which enumerates the offences which may entail the tremendous consequence above-mentioned. A political libel is not one of them.

SHOT BY A MANIAC.—A lamentable and strange affair has just occurred at Mornas, in the south, in the department of Vaucluse, where General de Salles, who nobly served at Sebastopol, has been killed by his own brother-in-law, Colonel Count Chanaleilles, in a fit of frenzy. The Count had long been excited on the subject of religion; so much so, that his mother was sent for to attend and soothe him. One evening last week Madame de Chanaleilles (his wife) went for a few moments, as General de Salles also did, to call upon some neighbours, Mons. and Madame de Vincenty. M. de Chanaleilles, who was at prayers at home, rose up suddenly, and no longer finding his wife by his side, cried out that they had taken her away from him; he traversed his house in a paroxysm of fury, seized a small six-barrelled revolver, and fired one of the barrels at his cook, who had her foot slightly wounded by it. Then descending to the ground floor, he went to the front door of his house, and here he fired off a second barrel. The ball struck a villager who was passing, and the wound was slight. At the noise of this firing, and at the cries which followed, Madame de Chanaleilles and the General came out of M. Vincenty's house. The General has succeeded in disarming his brother; and in the struggle M. de Chanaleilles succeeded in freeing his armed hand, and fired; the General fell. M. Vincenty and another person now ran and seized the madman, and consigned him to the gendarmes, who had also been drawn to the spot by the uproar. As for the unfortunate General, he died a few days afterwards. The Count has been sent to an asylum. His hallucination is singular. He had been ordered, he says, to fight in the midst of the insurrection at Mornas; he has done his duty and is proud of it. A letter of condolence has been addressed by the Emperor of the French to the family of General de Salles, and his Majesty has ordered a full-length portrait of the General to be placed in the Crimean Saloon in the Gallery of Versailles. M. Granier de Cassagnac, who has of late years become superstitious, states in the "Reveil" that the General long had a presentiment, not only of his premature death, but also of the sort of death that he should die. He once consulted a fortune-teller, who told him that he would attain the highest ranks in the army, and soon afterwards parish miserably. This was not a bad shot for a gipsy speaking of a soldier coming from war in Africa, and going to fight in the Crimea. But M. de Cassagnac cites it as a wonderful prophecy.

MADAME MORT, the celebrated proprietor of the champagne vineyards, was gathering flowers in her garden, when she felt herself bitten by a fly. She thought nothing of the slight puncture, but in the evening her face began to swell, and a few days afterwards she died in intense agony.

THE "FREE EMIGRATION."

The "Moniteur" publishes the following letter, which the Emperor has addressed to his cousin, Prince Napoleon, Minister of Algeria, of the Colonies:—

"St. Cloud, Oct. 26th.

"My Dear Cousin,—I have the liveliest desire that—at the moment when the difference with Portugal, relative to the *Charles-Georges*, has terminated—the question of the engagement of the African coast should be definitively examined and finally settled, in the truest principles of humanity and justice.

"I energetically claimed from Portugal the restitution of the *Charles-Georges*, because I will always maintain intact the independence of a national flag; but, in this case even, it was only with the personal conviction of my right that I risked, with the King or Portugal, the future of those friendly relations which I am glad to maintain with you.

"But as to the principle of the engagement of the negroes, ideas are far from being settled. If, in truth, labourers recruited on the African coast are not allowed the exercise of their free will, the African enrolment is only the slave trade in disguise. I will have it on terms, for it is not I who will anywhere protect enterprises contrary to progress, to humanity, and to civilisation.

"I beg you then to seek out the truth with the zeal and intelligence which you bring to bear on all affairs about which you engage yourself.

"And as the best method of putting a term to what is a continuing cause of dispute would be to substitute the free labour of Indian coolies for that of the negroes, I beg you to come to an understanding with the Minister of Foreign Affairs to resume with the English Government the negotiations which were entered upon a few months ago.

"On this, my dear cousin, I pray God to have you in his keeping.

"NAPOLEON."

THE FUNERAL CAR OF NAPOLEON.

The funeral car of Napoleon arrived in Paris on Friday morning. General Sir J. Burgoyne proceeded with it to the Invalides, to deliver it formally. He was received by Marshal Vautier, Minister of War, and Prince Napoleon. Sir J. Burgoyne delivered the following address:—

"Her Majesty the Queen of England being desirous of offering to Imperial Majesty a relic which she knows to be interesting to France, charged me to bring to Paris, and place at the disposal of the Emperor, a funeral car on which were conveyed to his first tomb the mortal remains of the illustrious founder of the Napoleonic dynasty. The admiration which I feel as a soldier for the exalted genius and exploits of that great war has caused me to feel the greater pleasure at the choice which my great Sovereign has made of me, for the accomplishment of this honourable mission."

Prince Napoleon replied:—"General, I receive, in the name of the Emperor, the precious relic which the Queen of England has sent to me, and receive it as a testimony of her desire to efface the poignant remembrance of St. Helena, as a pledge of the friendship which unites the two Sovereigns, and as a proof of the alliance which exists between the two nations. May this alliance long continue, for the happiness of the human race! May it serve for the future as great results as those which it has already produced! I am charged by the Emperor to inform you, General, that he particularly appreciates the choice which the Queen has made of you for this mission. We are happy to have to thank one of those glorious chiefs of English army, by the side of whom we have fought, and for whom we retain such a high esteem."

The short ceremonial then terminated. The car is to be placed in the Chapel St. Jerome, by the side of the mortal remains of the great man who had been conveyed on it to the tomb.

LEARNING IN HAYTI.—A pasquinade about the subtle Emperor of Hayti appears in the French papers. Here it is:—"The Emperor Faustin I. imitates France in all things, and has, like her, princes, marshals, counts, colleges, and universities, recently resolved to establish an academy of forty members, like the world-renowned French Academy. But it is not easy to select the forty; every inhabitant of the empire who could write his own name thinking himself qualified. So his Majesty decreed that 3,000 of his subjects who possessed the reputation of being the most lettered of all, should, on a given day, assemble at his palace, and be subjected to a literary test. When they were collected, he announced that the test was the writing of the word citron, and that those who made no error in spelling should be members of the academy. Pens, ink, and paper were brought; each of the 3,000 people wrote the word; and the judges of the land and the bench of bishops were charged to examine the 3,000 papers. They proclaimed that thirty-nine only of the candidates had written the word correctly—that is, with a C, the remaining 2,961 having used an S. 'Of thirty-nine?' cried the Emperor, 'and we want forty!' Well, I will be fortieth member myself!' 'Sire,' cried the judges, 'your Majesty will doubt deign to submit to the test!' 'Of course!' exclaimed Faustin, and a large bold hand he wrote Xitron with an X. The judges looked puzzled for a moment, and then, after glancing at each other, proclaimed that his Majesty had passed triumphantly through the ordeal. The Emperor thereupon proclaimed, amidst the enthusiasm of the assembly, a member of the academy. 'And I will be perpetual secretary, too!' added his Imperial Majesty, with pardonable vanity."

LE MARQUIS DES ORANGERS.—"Le Marquis des Orangers," an eccentric old gentleman, whose residence was never known, but who made his appearance in the alley of the Tuilleries as regularly each year as the oranges were brought out of their winter conservatory to bask in the first rays of spring, is dead. He made this alley his daily resort from three to five, and never saw his friends in any other reception-room. He disappeared when the evergreens were taken away last fortnight, and his name is now on the bills of mortality. In winter he was never seen.

THE HONOURABLE CHARLES GAVAN DUFFY.—Says the "Morning Advertiser" of Mr. Duffy:—"This gentleman has recovered from his illness, and returned to his public duties. Mr. Duffy has introduced a new order of things in departmental routine. He is not only tenacious of the title, Honourable Charles Gavan Duffy, but he desires to do something to transmit his name to posterity, but Mr. Duffy means to try it by improving the responsible government. The convalescent president, anxious to let the world know the quarters he occupies, announced his re-appearance for the purpose of delivering his manifesto on, of course his beliefs were heralded, and he had a large audience, not exactly of the sort to do him to his 'viceregal' position, but poor souls anxious to glean information they could make bread and cheese out of it. The re-entrance largely of the seeking characterising the ministry, and Mr. Duffy partakes largely of the craving to win vulgar élat. Fortune is behaving tolerably well to him. He is not like to lose an opportunity of winning popularity. His recovery from illness gave him an opportunity of indulging in this luxury. He had been residing during his convalescence by the sea-side, and somebody made for the inhabitants of St. Kilda and Brighton to present him with a congratulatory address on his restoration to health. It was presented to the Government employed, upon whom he himself had bestowed some £300 annuum, and supported by others having a lively interest in his welfare."

MECCA AND THE SACRED CAMEL.—The Viceroy of Egypt, who has delayed his departure for Upper Egypt, where he intends to pass the winter, arrived on the 17th ult., in great pomp, the caravan of Meccan pilgrims arriving from Mecca. It was preceded by the sacred camel, which the Viceroy, surrounded by the ulamas, and other persons of distinction, presented to the prince. The sacred camel is that which covers the Kaaba, from the journey, carries the large black veil which covers the Kaaba, the Sacred House. The Kaaba takes its name from its square form, which is thirty feet each way. The large veil which covers it is of black silk. In the centre, embroidered in letters of gold, are the following words, the symbol of the faith of the Mussulman: "There is only one God, and Mahomet, His prophet." The veil is only attached by four cords of gold thread, placed at the cardinal points. The veil is renewed every year, and is furnished by the Sultan of the Ottomans, the chief of the Sunnite believers. The ulamas are carefully preserved in the treasury of St. Sophia, at Constantinople. The sacred camel is never afterwards employed in any labour, and he ends his days in the ancient gardens of the Old Seraglio. The Viceroy received the caravan with the greatest honour; he was present at the prayers recited by the ulamas in the open air, and the example produced a great effect among the immense crowd of persons who had assembled to witness the sight.

AT VILLAFRANCA (says the "Globe") there are already twenty-four Russian flag-ships lying from the masts of either merchantmen or war craft, and a special steamer is stationed at the Straits of Gibraltar for conveying or taking in tow the expected large reinforcements which are to greet the arrival of the Duke of Cambridge, high admiral.

PRINCE LUCIEN BONAPARTE, who is in holy orders, is occupying himself actively in re-establishing the order of St. Bernard in France.

THE INDIAN REVOLT.

From advices in anticipation of the Overland Mail, we have the following intelligence from India:

ODEE.

General Sir Grant Hope, with the troops under him, continue in the neighbourhood of Sultanpore, detachments being occasionally sent out of such of the rebels as chance to appear in the neighbourhood. The district of Puzad, consisting of the town just named, of Sultanpore, and Sectora, is in a great measure tranquillised. There are large masses of the enemy flitting about, but taking the greatest care always to keep out of our way. The collection of the revenue, as all things considered, been wonderfully successful. Most of the assessments still exist, and the people pay without grumbling or apparent difficulty. The landholders who have been anything like behaved are being restored to their estates, and the disloyal, seeing their hopes at an end, begin now for the first time fully to comprehend the very disastrous nature of the game they have been playing. Turning to the frontiers of Oude, we find on the 10th that Brigadier Douglas, in command of the Arrah field force, encountered rebels from Jundespore, where there were said to be 15,000 at a place called Chundrea, and defeated them, destroying about a hundred, our casualties being nominal. A column which left Allahabad on the 22nd, overtook and defeated the enemy the following day, destroying 500 of them.

The "Bombay Times" thinks that little will be done for the restoration of order in Oude until operations, now completely suspended, are resumed in the cold weather.

The plans of Lord Clyde seem to be to force the insurgent bodies which traverse the province across the Gogra into the Khairabad and Beraich districts; and by a chain of communications on the military right bank of the river, shut all access to the province against them. Should he succeed in doing this, the deadly character of the districts themselves, and the impossibility of their maintaining so large a body of men, will force the rebels either to negotiate, or to open negotiation, with ourselves; and there will be an end of the campaign in either case. The rebels seem to be improving the country, and by their inactivity to strengthen themselves, and are engaged to ravage the country almost to the very walls of Lucknow. Fever and dysentery are unfortunately prevalent amongst the troops, and we must be content to await the opening of the cold season for any effective measures of repression.

THE PUNJAB.

The Moollan fugitives are all "accounted for." The significance of the expression needs of course no illustration. The disbandment of the rest of the troops is proceeding without remark or incident, and the rumours of disaffection amongst the new levies, alluded to in recent advices, have died out. It may well be doubted whether India is not more in want of Sir John Lawrence than the Home Council, but the events of the last year have doubtless told severely upon the health of this gallant and able man; and he must not remain to his loss.

CALPEE.

There is a native report "that Burgoes Singh, of Balaya, having got together 7,000 men and four guns, is spreading disorder throughout the country on the other side of the Jumna, making attacks on Jaoun, &c., and has burnt many villages." Advices from Banda, dated September 23, make no mention of the facts related, and General Whitlock's force lies in such strength in and around Calpee, that we have little fear of a rising in that neighbourhood.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

A wild story has found its way into one of the Calcutta journals of the commencement of hostilities against us by Nepal, Jung Bahadur being declared to be on the march with 12,000 to 18,000 men against the sanitarium at Darjeeling. Detachments of the naval brigade with their guns were said to be on their way from Dinapore, Purneah, and Jaiporee to defend the station; and the women and children, 400 in number, were daily expected to be sent down to the plains.

The proclamation transferring the Government of India from the East India Company to the Crown had not been promulgated when the mail left; and it was eagerly looked for. The "Bombay Times" anticipates from it the best results, and warmly praises Lord Stanley's reply to the missionary deputation which waited upon him some months since. "If the Government," says that paper, "will fearlessly and honestly carry out a policy of resolute neutrality in the country, in religious matters, it will cut up a thousand stumbling-blocks by the roots."

The position of Tantia Toppe and the remains of the Gwalior army is uncertain. One account has it that he is at Seronze, and that his situation is desperate, with Brigadier Smith and Lieutenant Kerr jointly operating against him. Another tells us that he now rules in Jala Pattan, in possession of great treasure.

The health of the European troops at Allahabad, Lucknow, Gwalior, and other stations, has been very unfavourable, fever having carried off some scores, and prostrated many more.

The Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief were still at Allahabad, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Madras at the Neilgherries, those of Bombay in the Deccan.

Meer Amanut Allee, Subahdar-Major of the Grenadier Regiment Scindia's Contingent, who was elected, on the breaking out of the mutiny, General-in-Chief of the Gwalior Contingent, and who successfully drove back our troops under Wyndham, near Cawnpore, was captured and hanged very recently. This man was regarded for many years as a most devoted and trustworthy officer.

INDIAN WEAPONS.—A journal at Bombay describes the appearance presented by the grand arsenal now that the arms collected from the southern Mahratta country and from Gozerat are brought together. "We have to begin with nearly 50,000 tulwars of very much the same make and size, and which the people will find themselves very much better without, as long beyond the temptation to do mischief. We have then daggers, swords, and knives of every size and form, from the straight Ghilzie knife to the Malay crease, the ancestor of the bowie-knife, and the horrible looking weapon of the Moplahs; spears, lances, and battle-axes are numberless in their forms; only a few are really elegant, but most of them look deadly enough; of matchlocks and flint-locks, jingals, blunderbuses and pistols, there is an equal diversity. Amongst them is the rudiment of the revolver, which Colonel Colt confesses to have borrowed from India, and we noticed a four-barrelled pistol, which must have been a handsome weapon in its time. The whole are being broken up by the blacksmiths."

AN ENGLISH GENTLEMAN. Lieutenant Tyford, has taken a singular step in the way of promoting the study of craniology, by a contribution to the Museum of Rouen. The capital of Normandy has just received from him a barrel of ruckee five heads of sepoy, classified according to caste.

AS IT OUGHT TO BE.—"A club has been formed by several Parsee gentlemen—the headquarters being a garden near the Gowlia Tank—with the view of affording their wives the privilege of mixing in the society of men. It is a sine qua non for each member of the club to be present with his wife, before their evening meals, the individuals composing the party, mixing unconsciously among themselves, take an airing along the garden walks. While at their meals, no scrupulous restraint crosses the gentle flow of wit and harmless raucous; and the members separate after an evening's rational entertainment."—"Bombay Times."

FLAX FROM THE PUNJAB.—The Chamber of Commerce of Dundee have memorialised the Council of India on the desirableness of promoting the cultivation of flax in that country. Some samples grown in the Punjab have been pronounced of fine quality, and such as would at all times, in any quantities, command a high price in our markets. The want of an organised system, and the absence of general information on the subject among the natives, are considered to be the only causes that prevent a large supply from being obtained.

AN HISTORICAL DWARF.—A dwarf named Richebourg, who was only 23½ inches high, has just died in the Rue du Four St. Germain, aged ninety. He was, when young, in the service of the Duchess d'Orleans, mother of King Louis Philippe, with title of "butler," but he performed none of the duties of the office. After the first revolution broke out he was employed to convey despatches abroad, and for that purpose was dressed as a baby, the despatches being concealed in his cap, and a nurse being made to carry him. For the last twenty-five years he lived in the Rue du Four, and during all that time never went out. He had a great repugnance to strangers, and was alarmed when he heard the voice of one; but in his own family he was very lively and cheerful in his conversation. The Orleans family allowed him a pension of 3,000fr.

MR. GLADSTONE'S MISSION TO THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

MR. GLADSTONE is appointed Special Commissioner to the Ionian Islands, in order to investigate the political condition of these dependencies of the British Crown, which for some time past have exhibited almost intolerable symptoms of anarchy. The "Morning Post" gives the following relation of the event, which have ultimately led to the despatch of a special envoy to Corfu:

Some ten years ago, or a little more, a constitution was accorded to the Ionians, in order that they might not be in a less free condition than their brothers of continental Greece. This constitution placed the government of the domestic affairs of the Ionians in their own hands in the form of a Parliament elected by universal suffrage. When the constitution was promulgated, there was much rejoicing, and the Ionians thought themselves better off than if they received their sovereign authority from Athens. The parliamentary government was conducted with more or less success until the Queen of Greece and the Greek Government, inspired by Russia, revived a sentiment for Greek nationality, and this about the time when Russia advanced into the Danubian Principalities. Agents left Athens for Candia and the Ionian Islands, to excite the Greek population to join in a proposed war on Turkish or British ground—wherever, in fact, the population was by religion and language Greek. To such an extent was this feeling universal that it was feared the whole of the Greek population of the East would eventually be engaged in invading Turkish ground, backed by King Otto and what was understood to be the patriotism of the sons of the classical Hellenes. France and England, then at war with Russia, were not slow to discover what Power was exciting the Greek Court to create a diversion, and it became a question whether the treason of King Otto (or rather the Queen) should not be punished by depriving him of his throne. At all events it was necessary to send an army to Greece in order to prevent the Greeks from revolutionising the Turkish frontiers and Candia and the Ionian Islands. An Anglo-French force, as all the world knows, was encamped many months near Athens, and eventually retired without even obliging a change of Ministry. The Athenian Court and Government was put on its good behaviour, and England and France satisfied with promises to behave better in the future. From that day the real patriotic party in Greece, who looked to England as the mother and guardian of their modern freedom, became the persecuted victims of the Court, and gradually the Chambers and Senate of the Greek nation have lost all governing influence and power.

These retrospective events must be recorded in order to understand the sedition of the Ionian Parliament. There are some hundred men of the Ionian Parliament, generally poor, and open to foreign intrigue, who have been taught to believe that England, the country which made modern Greece, is the enemy of a universal Greek nationality and independence. These men have, more particularly since the Russian war, employed their time in denouncing British authority, and abusing England and the English in the Ionian journals, thus creating hatred towards her Majesty's authority, and rendering civil rule almost impossible. The President of the Ionian Chambers, Count Roma, Gen. Metaxa, and M. Michael Sontzo, are all said to be employed by Russia, through the Greek Government, to revive what is called the patriotism of the Ionian Greeks. The means employed are perhaps known to her Majesty's agents at Corfu; and from such sources this discontent of the Parliament is fed.

It is Mr. Gladstone's business to inquire into all this, and we cannot doubt that it will be well done. It appears that he does not absolutely identify himself with the present Government by accepting this commission; he will receive no reward for his services, and will return to London soon after the Parliamentary session begins.

LABOUR IN AUSTRALIA.

According to the monthly review of the Australian colonies issued by Messrs. Silver and Co., the Victorian railway works have not as yet given employment to all who speculated upon obtaining it, and they have not, therefore, tended to raise the price of labour. But as section after section is taken up, the demand for labour must increase, and December will find thousands in active employment where in August there was room for a few hundreds only. £1,500,000 a year is, for three years to come, to be spent on railways in Victoria; certain contractors are bound, under heavy penalties, to complete a given number of miles of railway within a given time; operatives of all classes, far exceeding in number any now disposable in the colony, are required; and the labour market must be strongly affected by this increased and extraordinary demand. It is, therefore, but reasonable to suppose that those who left this country in July and August, with a view to finding employment on the Victorian railways, were landed at Melbourne, just when their services were most in request.

The Government of New South Wales have adopted a praiseworthy measure, which, originally initiated at the Cape, ought to be imitated by all the Australian colonies. Considering that Sydney is frequently crowded with persons in want of work, and consequently of food, while the inland districts are suffering from scarcity of labour, and considering that immigrants newly landed are frequently too timid and ignorant, and almost always too poor, to travel, alone and unaided, to the towns and districts of the interior, the New South Wales Government have undertaken to convey all immigrants of the labouring classes to those places inland where their services are chiefly in request, and where they find ready employment and good wages. Recent as this measure is, its operation has already influenced the last 'Labour Report' from Sydney, which bears witness to an urgent demand for agricultural and a moderate demand for female labour. No hopes of 'doing well' are held out to mechanics, clerks, and shopmen.

"The Tasmanians are still loud in their complaints of a want of labour. They accuse those 'who have the control of emigration from the mother country' of grievous neglect, and they declare themselves unable to understand why emigrants should be sent to almost all the Australian colonies except Tasmania. The obvious reason is, that most of the other colonies have apportioned large sums for the purpose of promoting that emigration which is necessary for their comfort and progress."

DISCOVERY OF ROCK SALT IN PRUSSIA.—A discovery of the utmost importance for the trade of Prussia and the countries on the Baltic generally, has lately been made at a place called Stassfurt, near Stettin. An inexhaustible bed of pure rock salt has been found. A small cargo was sent this summer to Scotland, to be used in salting herrings, and the result of the experiment has proved in every way satisfactory, the quality being considered even superior to the Liverpool rock salt.

AN AMERICAN BATTERING VESSEL.—A correspondent of the "Times" gives the curious information that the Americans have already constructed a battering-ram vessel!—"Not many years since there lived in America a rich merchant named Stephens. He suffered seriously in his pocket from sundry unfortunate collisions at sea, and thus his attention was turned to the subject, and it occurred to him that the tremendous force of steam power might be turned to account in naval warfare in the same way. In a word, he conceived the possibility of building a steam ram, and, after long thought, he communicated his ideas to the government. These new-fangled notions were not appreciated, but Stephens was so impressed with the importance of the matter that he determined to set to work at once. Being a rich man, he met no serious obstacle, and ransacked the workshops of New York in search of first-rate and respectable workmen. He bound them over to secrecy, and then threw up a high wall round the ship where he proposed to give reality to his idea. Year after year went by, and gradually the leviathan progressed. The steamer was to be shot-proof by means of iron plates, and since then the manner in which those plates resist for hours the heaviest shot, has become so notorious that I need dwell no longer on that theme. It was to be the largest steamer afloat, which I need hardly say it is not now, being surpassed by our Great Eastern, and it was to travel at the rate of twenty knots an hour—that is to say, faster than ocean steamers, though not so fast, for instance, as her Majesty's yacht. It was to be propelled by six powerful engines, to be sharp at the bow and stern, being a bed of iron at both extremities, carrying one monster gun, and a heavy, but not numerically strong, armament, after the Merrimack model. Such a vessel would be a fearful antagonist for even a fleet of three-deckers to meet with on the wide ocean, and all she would have to fear would be being laid aboard. To prevent this, she was to throw streams of boiling water from her sides, so as to be unapproachable. The enterprise gradually progressed; but Mr. Stephens did not live to see it completed, although he was fortunate enough to have his conception approved by his country, and his expenses refunded, the American Government carrying out his idea. This mammoth naval ram is now nearly finished, a yearly sum having been allotted to the work—so nearly as to be ready for immediate use, and what a fearful power is thus possessed by America!"

THE TREATY WITH JAPAN.

We are enabled to state the more important stipulations of the treaty signed at Jeddo, on the 26th of last August.

This treaty, in the first place, engages that there shall be perpetual peace and friendship between her British Majesty and the Tycoon of Japan; secondly, that her Majesty may appoint a diplomatic agent to reside at Jeddo, and the Tycoon a diplomatic agent to reside in London, both of them respectively to have the right of travelling freely to any part of the empire of Japan, and to any part of Great Britain; also, either Power may appoint consuls or consular agents at any or all the ports of the other. The ports of Hakodadi, Nankawa, and Nagasaki, in Japan, are to be opened to British subjects on the 1st of July, 1859. Nee-e-gata, or if Nee-e-gata be unsuitable, another convenient port on the west coast of Nipon, is to be opened on the 1st of January, 1860; Hiogo on the 1st of January, 1863; and British subjects may permanently reside in all the foregoing ports, may lease ground, purchase or erect dwellings and warehouses, but may not erect fortifications. Within a certain distance of the specified ports they shall be free to go where they please, or, speaking generally, they have a tether of some twenty to thirty miles around either of them. From the 1st of January, 1862, they will be allowed to reside at Jeddo, and from the 1st of January, 1863, at Osaka, for the purposes of trade. All questions of rights, whether of property or person, arising between themselves, shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the British authorities; if they commit any crime against the Japanese they will be tried and punished by their own authorities, and vice versa, Japanese subjects in the same predicament will be tried and punished by theirs; but in either case the British consuls are to act in the first instance as amicable arbitrators. In respect of debts contracted on either side, the respective authorities will do their utmost to enforce recovery, but neither Government will be held responsible for the debts of its subjects. The Japanese Government will place no restrictions whatever upon the employment by British subjects of Japanese in any lawful capacity. British subjects will be allowed the free exercise of their religion, and for this purpose will have the right to erect suitable places of worship. Foreign and Japanese coin may be used indifferently for commercial purposes. Supplies for the British navy may be stored at certain specified ports free of duty. If British vessels are wrecked or stranded, the Japanese authorities will render every assistance in their power. British merchants will be at liberty to hire Japanese pilots. Munitions of war are to be the only exceptions to articles of import and export, which last, on the payment of an *ad valorem* duty at the place of import, are to be subject to no further tax, excise, or transit duty. Such articles may be re-exported without the payment of any additional duty. The Japanese are to prevent fraud or smuggling, and to receive the benefit of all penalties or confiscations.

The treaty is written in English, Japanese, and Dutch, the Dutch version to be considered the original. All official communications on the part of the British to the Japanese authorities shall, however, henceforward be written in English, though for five years from the signature of the treaty, to facilitate the transaction of business, they are to be accompanied by a Dutch or Japanese version. The treaty may be revised on the application of either of the contracting parties, on giving one year's notice after the 1st of July, 1872. All the privileges, immunities, and advantages granted, or to be granted hereafter, by Japan to any other nation, are to be freely and equally participated by the British Government and its subjects. The treaty is to be ratified within a year from the day of its signature.

For the regulation of trade, the articles which are appended to the treaty are to be considered as forming a part of it, and as equally binding. The majority of these relate to the arrangements of the Japanese Custom-house, but the more important contain the tariff of duties to be levied. In the first class, as free of duty, are specified gold and silver, coined and uncoined, wearing apparel in actual use, and household furniture and printed books not intended for sale, but the property of persons who come to reside in Japan. On the second class, a duty of five per cent. only will be levied; and this class comprises all articles used for the purpose of building, rigging, repairing, or fitting out ships, whaling gear of all kinds, salted provisions, bread and breadstuffs, living animals, coals, timber for building houses, rice, paddy, steam machinery, zinc, lead, tin, raw silk, cotton and woollen manufactured goods. A duty of 35 per cent. will, however, be levied on all intoxicating liquors; and goods not included in any of the preceding classes will pay a duty of 20 per cent. Japanese products which are exported as cargo will pay an export duty of five per cent. The above are substantially all the material stipulations of this important document.

EARTHQUAKE IN BURMAH.—An earthquake recently caused much consternation and some damage at various places in Arracan and Burmah. It appears to have been more violent at Promé than at any other place we have heard of. At Promé numerous pagodas were thrown down, and strong buildings of masonry demolished. At Rangoon itself the shocks were slight, causing only a rocking of the houses. At Moulmein a low rumbling noise was heard succeeded by a slight shock of an earthquake, vibrating from north to south. Every pukka building trembled for a second or two, and punkahs were set in motion.

BRICK-MAKING is being carried on in Ceylon by means of elephants, who tread the clay. Wild and tame animals work together, and both attempt to shirk their work by endeavouring to put their feet in old footprints, instead of in the soft, tenacious, untrodden mud.

THE DUTCH have landed troops at Jambie, an island in the Eastern Seas, fought and beaten the inhabitants, and taken possession of the place.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY BY THE DUTCH.—Slavery is about to be abolished in earnest by the Dutch. A Bill has just been brought before the States at the Hague for emancipation in Surinam and Curaçoa. The first colony is to get eleven millions of florins, the second three. Slaves are estimated for indemnity according to a tariff:—A negro on a sugar plantation, 375 florins; on a coffee or cocoa ditto, 260 florins; on a cotton or rice ditto, 200 florins. There are 37,740 slaves in Surinam, and 9,000 in Curaçoa.

JEDDO, AND THE JAPANESE.

JAPAN was almost a sealed book to Europe—if we except the little knowledge gained by the Dutch at certain out-ports—when Lord Elgin carried into the very capital a hundred pairs of observant English eyes. Of course the opportunity was not lost; and we have had a dozen letters descriptive of the manners, customs and costumes of the Japanese, in country and town. Last week we published one very interesting letter; this week we print another; with some illustrative engravings, from sketches by Dutch and native artists.

"Jeddo," we are told, "is one of the finest cities in the world; streets broad and good, and the castle, which includes nearly the whole centre of the town, built on a slight eminence. There are three walls or enclosures round this quarter. Within the inner, the Tycoon Emperor and heir-apparent live."

"The houses of the princes and nobles are palaces, and you may imagine the size when some contain ten thousand followers. They are built with great regularity, forming wide streets some forty yards broad, kept in perfect order; an immense courtyard, with trees and gardens, forms the centre of each enclosure, in the midst of which is the house of the owner; the houses containing the followers, servants, stables, &c., form this large enclosure. They are built of one uniform shape. The gateways leading to the courtyard are exceedingly handsome, of massive wood-work, ornamented with lacquer and other devices. From the road that leads by the moat to the second wall, is one of the finest views I ever recollect seeing—on one side the Gulf of Jeddo, with the high hills rising beyond, while on the other is a portion of the great city of Jeddo, with its trees and gardens, picturesque temples, and densely-crowded streets, extending as far as the eye can reach towards the interior; then there is a view of the trees and green fields in the distance, far away beyond a thickly-built suburb; but the most striking view of all is that close by, the well-kept green banks of the second defence, rising some seventy feet from the broad moat below, with grand old cedars over a hundred years of age growing from its



JAPANESE WOMAN AND CHILD.



JAPANESE NOBLEMAN PROCEEDING TO THE CHASE.—[FROM A NATIVE DRAWING.]

sides. The fine timber, the lay of the ground, the water lilies in the moat, the grandeur, good order, and completeness of everything, equal, and in some ways far surpass, anything I have ever seen in Europe, or any part of the world.

"We made an expedition into the country. The cottages were surrounded with neatly-clipped hedges, the private residences as well railed and kept as any place in England. The same completeness and finish exist in everything. The scenery was charming and the land highly cultivated. The houses and persons of the people are extremely clean, in the villages are bathing houses. The people exhibited much curiosity, but no incivility."

At the "tea gardens" (to which reference was made in the letter published last week), "people are served by young women who are far from ugly; being unmarried, they exhibited a set of beautifully white teeth and black arched eyebrows; some whiten their faces, neck, and upper part of the chest by means of chalk. The appearance of the married women with blackened teeth and their eyebrows removed was in ungainly contrast to them. At an entertainment there was introduced a strong frothy tea, made by pulverising a teaspoonful of a very superior kind and whipping it into a frothy beverage, but it was too strong to be agreeable; the remains of former-served sweetmeats, &c., were served a second time; the names of the parties having been placed on the boxes containing them. The servants who brought in these things each wore a sword, made a low bow on placing them before us, and retired placing the palms of their hands upon the upper part of their thighs. Everywhere foreigners are received with the greatest civility by the people."

"There are two Emperors of Japan—one the spiritual, the other the working one. The former lives at Miaco, and is the descendant of the old race who were turned off the throne by the ancestors of the reigning Emperor. The spiritual Emperor has nothing to do with governing the country, and is partly looked up to as a heavenly being, one condition of which is that everything he wears or uses is destroyed each night, and new clothes supplied the next morning. It is to prevent any one using the sanctified garments. The reigning Emperor lives here, and is elected, but in what manner I am not sure, but, I believe, by the princes. It appears a mere nominal election, for the son regularly succeeds the father, and has done so since his ancestor usurped the throne. I believe the descent of the spiritual Emperor can be traced, names and dates, with many of the branches of his family, for 2,500 years. The country is held by princes, who owe feudal duty to the reigning Emperor, who obliges them to reside for six months in the year at Jeddo, with their families; during the other six months, he allows them to visit their estates, but keeps their families hostages in Jeddo. This restrains them, and the practice is intended to prevent the princes from obtaining too much influence over the people. It is difficult to discover what the military system of the empire is, but that it must have the power of bringing an immense number of men into the field is beyond doubt—they have numerous and well-appointed batteries."

"Everything Japanese bears a striking contrast to everything Chinese. You cannot be five minutes in Japan without seeing it is a progressive nation—country, towns, houses, and people, all show this. The wide streets are paved in the centre, and the houses open throughout on the ground floor, with matting, formed in frames, fitting neatly all over the rooms. On this they sit, sleep, and eat, and everything is kept scrupulously clean. Behind each house is a small garden, with a few green shrubs, and occasionally a fine tree. Cleanliness seems one great characteristic of the Japanese—they are constantly washing in the most open manner. The Japanese are eager for knowledge. Never was there a people more ready to adapt themselves to the changes and progress of the world than they are. It is curious that while some of their customs are what we would deem rather barbarous, and while they are ignorant of many common things—while they still rip themselves up, and shoe their horses with straw because ignorant of any other method, they have jumped to a knowledge of certain branches of science which it has taken nations in Europe hundreds of years to attain. At Nagasaki they can turn out of their yard an engine for a railway or steamer; Japanese captains and engineers command their men-of-war, of which three are steamers; they understand the electric telegraph; they make thermometers and barometers, theodolites, and, I believe, aneroids. Their spy-glasses and microscopes are good, and very cheap. They have a large glass manufactory, which turns out glass little inferior to our own. They have a short line of railway somewhere in the interior, given by the Americans. Many of them speak Dutch, some English, all are anxious to learn; everything is done by themselves; and when it is considered that it is not much more than ten years ago since they made this start, the advance they have made in that short time is perfectly wonderful."

The Japanese gentry are greatly devoted to field sports, and many of them keep up regular hunting establishments, entering into the spirit of the chase with all the ardour of genuine Meltonians. Our engraving of a Japanese nobleman going out hunting is from a drawing by a native artist, and its value is in its truthfulness, and quaintness of execution.

CHINESE SKETCHES.

TANKA WOMAN AND CHINESE LADY OF QUALITY.

OUR readers will perceive as great an opposition between the two female figures we engrave this week, as exists between a Belgravian countess and an apple-woman of St. Giles's. This is easily to be accounted for in the hard drudgery to which the Tanka woman is doomed from her earliest years. Abroad in all weathers, incessantly tugging at the oar, she has little opportunity, and possibly no care, for the adornment of her person, and when, as we have sketched her, indulging in a cruise on shore, the little feminine airs of coquetry she gives herself ill become her natural character, and serve but to make her ridiculous. On the contrary, the women amongst the higher classes are most delicately nurtured, and appear in colours as soft and delicate as the paintings on their screens. Dr. Yvan in his interesting book "Inside Canton," gives a description of one of these beauties, which we are tempted to quote:—"This frail and delicate little creature resembled a sprig of jessamine swayed by the wind; her loveable and tenderly-chiselled features wore an expression in which smiling and sadness were blended; one might have fancied her thoughts were rosy white as the hue which art had lent to her cheeks. Her eyes, like two black pearls, sent from behind the shelter of her silken lashes soft languorous glances, or sparkling rays of innocent womanly malice. Notwithstanding a little want of grace in its curve, her nose would not have disfigured an European countenance. Madame Li was ladylike after the manner of a charming young girl; her dignity was infantine in its grace. And as on one of the great sofas of black wood she sat see-sawing her legs backwards and forwards, showing her feet encased in slippers brodered with gold, and her ankles hung with bracelets, picking the leaves of an *eyulan* flower with her pretty little fingers, murmuring musically rather than talking—you could hardly help feeling as if you could eat her up like an orange-flower. It was impossible to confound Madame Li with her twelve satellites when she was in the midst of them. It was not that she had in perfection that air of imposing simplicity which bespeaks a woman of gentle blood, or that she was more elegantly dressed; but that she had the habit of command—a certain conscious superiority of carriage, sometimes breaking out into caprice, perhaps sometimes into anger, but which made you exclaim, 'This is the mistress here.' Madame Li wore mourning weeds all the time she was under my notice, and was therefore very simply attired: she appeared in a cham of a very clear shade of blue, and had an ornament in the shape of a comb in her long, black, low-falling tresses; but had she been got up like a picture on rice-paper, she could not have been more charming."

"In order to comprehend the beauty of the Chinese women, it is necessary to comprehend the style of Chinese art; to be able to look kindly upon their contorted architecture, their fantastic decorations, their dragons with notched and twisted tails, their impossible flowers, their childish tastes, and even their stumpy, etiolated, and moss-eaten trees. These conditions granted, you may find many charms in the



CHINESE TANKA WOMAN.

strange product of human whim, that being in whom the vital forces have been sapped, whose physical development has been arrested, in order that she may never expand to the full, and may remain all her life a pitiable, suffering creature—a Chinese woman. You may really come at last to love these elegant and graceful creatures, with their helmet-like masses of black hair, whose slanting eyes wear an expression of goodness and sweetness unutterable; who resemble, in their little caressing, wilful ways, artful spoiled children. Everything in them will seem loveable, even their little feet, bound with rings of gold, and imprisoned in red bandages!

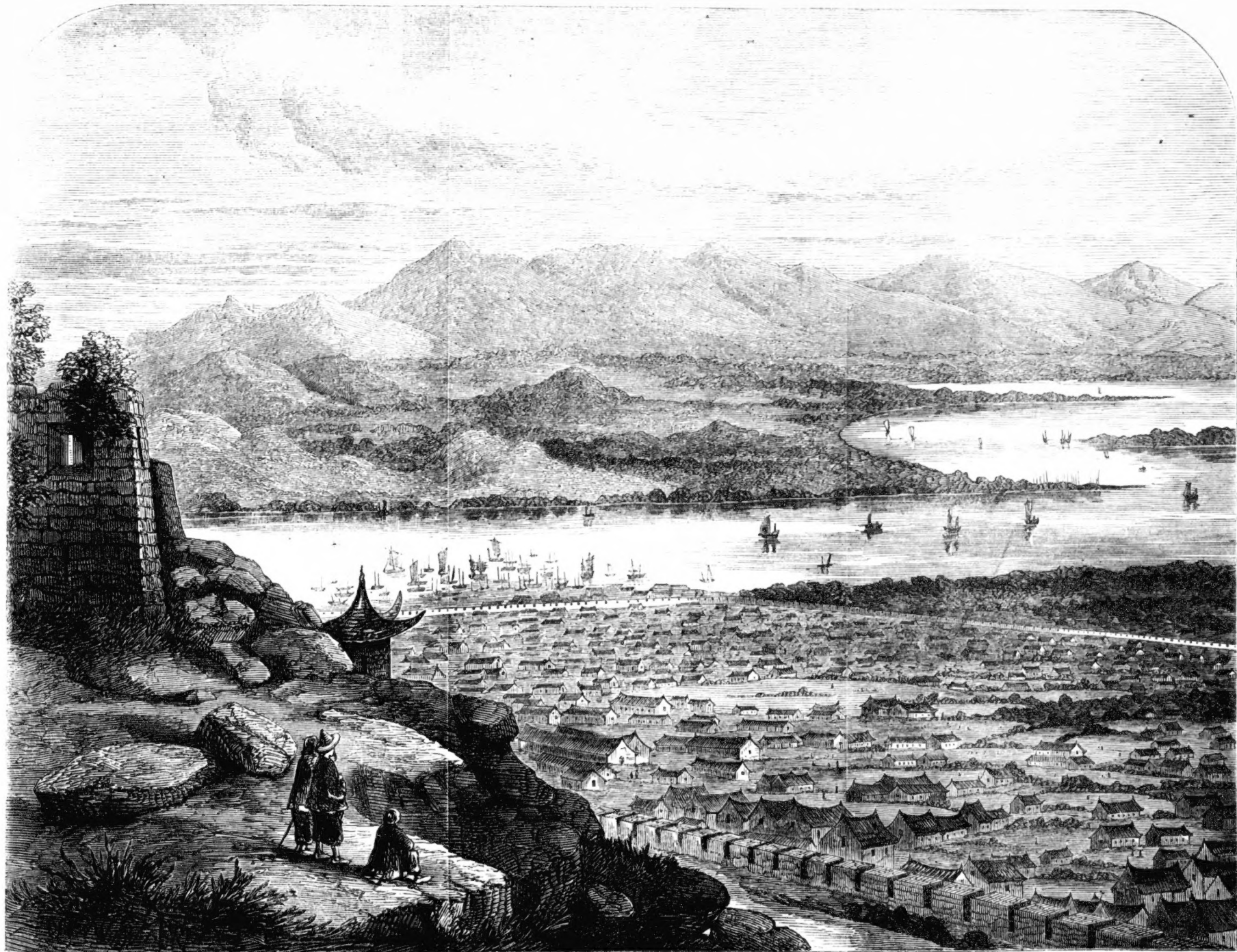
"The law of association will always rule; and a Chinese woman, to be seen as I have painted her, must be seen in the gilded prison which man has made for her. You must watch her tottering along, screen in hand, over those brilliant floors which reflect her features; watch her seated in her porcelain chair, her little body swaying to and fro without cessation; watch her eating with the mother-of-pearl chopsticks, which so well become her little fingers and her little mouth! Removed from these native conditions, the Chinese woman is a caricature; as the Turkish woman is a caricature out of the harem."

SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, the present location of Lord Elgin in China, is a seaport city of considerable extent in the province of Kiang-Sa. It stands on a level and highly-cultivated plain, and is enclosed by a wall five miles in circuit, with several extensive suburbs beyond. The objects most worthy of notice are its tea-gardens and vast ice-houses. An important commerce is here carried on with the north and south provinces of China, which is materially assisted by a good internal water communication; 3,000 junks are often crowded together on its river, many being from Hainan, Canton, and the Asiatic Archipelago. The population is estimated at 120,000 souls.



CHINESE LADY OF QUALITY.



VIEW OF SHANGHAI.

IRELAND.

MARRIAGE OF THE LORD-LIEUTENANT.—The nuptials of Lord Eglintoun and Lady Adela Capel were celebrated on Wednesday week, by special licence, at the Viceregal Lodge in the Park, Dublin. The bride arrived on Tuesday night, accompanied by her father, the Earl of Essex, and her brother, the Hon. Reginald Capel. The marriage ceremony, which was strictly private, was celebrated by the Ven. Archdeacon Gould, assisted by the Dean of the Chapel Royal. The honeymoon is kept at the Viceregal Lodge.

LEVY OF AN EXTRA POLICE-TAX IN DONEGAL.—On the 4th instant, Mr. D. Cruise, the stipendiary magistrate, with a large body of police, went to the townland of Ballyhoe, on which the late attempt to murder Mr. Nixon took place, and levied from the occupiers the sum of £50 for the payment of the extra police stationed there. It is said that the people "had plenty of money, and paid down the cash on demand." This, it was explained to them by Mr. Cruise, was but a quarterly payment in advance.

ANOTHER ASSASSINATION.—Mr. Richard Ely, a gentleman residing in the Queen's County, was fired at by some unknown assassin on Friday evening, at a place called Killye. He lingered until Saturday afternoon, when he expired from the effects of his wounds. The unfortunate gentleman was passing out of a gate in his own grounds when he was fired at.

POSTAL SERVICE TO THE GALWAY LINE.—Lord Bury has imparted to the committee of the Galway line of steamers the gratifying intelligence that terms of a subsidy with Newfoundland and the Imperial Government conjointly for that colony has been concluded. It is understood that this commencement has been made on the most liberal scale, and we have reason to believe that the future operations of Lord Bury with the remaining colonies will be conducted to a similar issue. It may, therefore, be considered that the Atlantic Royal Steam Navigation Company is now in a position to compete with all, or any, lines of trans-Atlantic steamers. Lord Bury is at present negotiating with the United States Government and the rest of the North American provinces.

RIBBONISM.—Dean Kieran, Roman Catholic dignitary in Newry, has administered a heavy blow to Ribbonism—from the pulpit too. He said the system was at once an outrage on religion and a foul blot on civilisation. It converted men into murderers, perjurers—into enemies alike of God and man. He hoped his voice would reach the victims of a terrible and wicked delusion. Unless the combination was at once broken up, he would expose the names of all guilty parties that might come to his knowledge, and call on their employers to dismiss them from their service. Though he would be sorry, indeed, to injure the wives and children of even Ribbonmen, or of those who forgot their duties to their families, he gave those deluded men warning that persistence in their wicked course of life would leave him no resource whatever for failing to publish their names, and publicly denounce the abettors of a secret and infernal tyranny, which acts in defiance of the ordinances of religion and the laws of the country.

SCOTLAND.

SEVEN FISHERMEN DROWNED.—Seven fishermen of Burnmouth, near Berwick, have been drowned. Their boat upset in sight of their neighbours, but owing to a tempestuous sea, the distance between, and their own imminent danger, the latter were unable to render them any assistance. Two of the unfortunate men have left wives and families to bewail their untimely loss.

THE PROVINCES.

THE WEST YORKSHIRE COLLIERIES.—The miners of Leeds, Wakefield, and Methley, met last week for the purpose of considering the recent decision of their employers with respect to the 15 per cent. reduction. There was a large attendance of the unemployed, about 1,200 being present. Several speakers addressed the meeting, and the following resolutions were passed: "That this meeting, reviewing the conduct of the masters with respect to the 15 per cent. reduction, and the manner in which they have treated the efforts of the men to bring about an early settlement of the struggle, places itself in opposition to the 15 per cent. reduction." "That, as the only hope of masters here is in the situation of our ranks, we hereby pledge ourselves that throughout both districts we will join penny for penny, and that those who are better off will do what they can in order to afford the requisite help to our poorer brethren." This terminated the proceedings, and the miners dispersed in an orderly and peaceable manner. The same evening, a public meeting was held in the Leeds Court-house, where resolutions expressing sympathy with the miners, and an opinion that they were harshly treated by their employers, were adopted.

MANSLAUGHTER AT A WEDDING.—John O'Halloran has been committed at Wigan, on a charge of manslaughter. He had some words with a man named Doney, at a wedding party, and in a subsequent altercation struck him with a brick, occasioning his death. The prisoner, who is a surly-looking young fellow, betrayed the most stolid indifference.

CONSCIENTIOUS.—"During the personal canvass of Mr. Garnett among the electors of Salford," says the "Gate-head Observer," "he and his friends, calling at a huxter's shop, found only a boy, who, having learnt their business, went to the foot of the stairs and called to his mother (who was making beds): 'Mother, here's a man as want's a yo'r vote for him (he a Parliament man)' 'Well,' shouted the mother, 'tell him thy feyther's not in, but if he'll chalk his name on th' counter, we'll inquire into his character!'"

FINES FOR NEGLECT IN COLLIERIES.—Some important convictions took place at Swansea petty sessions, last week, in connection with the recent disastrous explosion at the Cyffing Colliery, near that town. Mr. Thomas Walters, owner of the colliery, was charged, on the information of the Government Inspector, Mr. Evans, with several infractions of the rules for the management of the collieries, viz.:—1. For not providing the steam-boiler of the colliery with a proper steam-gauge; 2. For not having an adequate break attached to every machine used for lowering or raising persons in the pit; 3. For not having a proper indicator to show the position of the load in the pit or shaft; 4. For not having an adequate amount of ventilation in the pit. The defendant pleaded guilty to the first three of these charges, but denied the charge of insufficient ventilation. Several cases were gone into, and two were proved, two others being admitted by the defendant. The magistrates inflicted the full penalty of £5 and costs in each case.

THE BISHOP AND HIS TENANTS.—There is a newspaper controversy going on in Stamford about the conduct of the Bishop of Lincoln towards the tenants of an estate which has lately come into his hands. Four farmers of the parish of Lusby, three of whom have been in possession for a very long period, have lately had notice to quit, and popular report declares that the Right Reverend Prelate has taken this step because they were Wesleyans. The friends of the Bishop deny the statement. The tenants have sought an interview with their landlord; but he would not see them, and referred them to Mr. Greetham, his Lordship's steward. That gentleman, it is said, "not only refused to see them, but denied them the common civility in most cases accorded even to vagrants."

A CHILD IN A HAMPER.—A small hamper, addressed to "Mrs. Ledbetter, Ship Inn, Salisbury," was despatched from the Waterloo Station of the London and South-Western Railway, one day last week, and was delivered accordingly. On being opened, the basket was found to contain a fine male child, apparently about six months old; it was dead, of course. No marks of violence were visible, and a surgical examination gives no evidence of the cause of death, except a slight inflammation of the bowels, occasioned apparently by diarrhoea.

NEGLECTED CONDITION OF THE MEDWAY.—The inhabitants of Chatham (not its "authorities") have shown that the river Medway is in an almost innavigable condition through neglect. It appears that the mud has been allowed to accumulate to such an alarming extent in the neighbourhood of the dockyard and gun wharf at Chatham, that only very small vessels can now float alongside the dockyard, where a few years back a seventy-four could be moored. Moreover, owing to the encroachments of the Medway having been neglected, the river Medway is fast becoming so shallow, that in a few years it will almost be impossible to take a line-of-battle ship up to Chatham dockyard. Even at the present time this difficulty has been experienced, as the line-of-battle steamer Cressy, 80, which recently required some repairs, could not be taken up to Chatham, where the largest stone dock has just been completed, because there was not sufficient water for her.

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT.—At Nottingham some excavations have been made in the rock for the purpose of making coach-houses; and, the buildings being erected, the supports were on Monday morning removed. During the absence of the workmen at dinner, some boys went in to clear the sand out, for which privilege they paid small acknowledgments. While so employed, the whole mass of buildings gave way, and the unfortunate boys were buried in the ruins. Four of them were soon after taken out, quite dead.

FRIGHTENED TO DEATH.—As some little girls were playing along the turnpike road at Much Hoole, near Preston, they saw a coffin lying across the footpath. When they were within four yards the coffin moved, and a "hollow sound" proceeded from it. The girls ran away screaming. Two young men, apprentices to a wheelwright, who were hearing the coffin home, had arranged this little trick—one of them getting behind a hedge, and pulling a string tied to a handle of the coffin as the girls approached. The result was that Martha Spencer, aged thirteen, was taken ill, and died; and a verdict of Manslaughter has been returned by a coroner's jury against the apprentices Forshaw and Maudslay.

RUSSIAN GUNS AT YORK.—Two of the guns captured at Sebastopol have been mounted in a public place in York, near the Castle. There was a regular procession and ceremony on Friday. The military would have joined the procession, had not a countermarching order been received from the Duke of Cambridge, who gave, as his reason for making the order, that if the soldiers were allowed to take part in the procession, it might be looked upon as an unfriendly act towards a now friendly Power. This order had also the effect of preventing the officers of the 8th Hussars attending the grand banquet in the Guildhall in the evening, at which there were present among the guests—the Earl of Carlisle, the Hon. and Very Rev. the Dean of York, the Hon. and Rev. S. W. Lawley, the Hon. W. E. Duncombe, and the city members, Mr. Westhead and Colonel Smyth.

MUTINY.—Five of the crew of the Jane Clark, who had been forwarded to England by her Majesty's Consul at Pernambuco, have been examined before the borough magistrates, at Southampton, on the charge of mutiny. It appeared that during the voyage from Liverpool to the Brazils, these men seized Mr. Clark, the captain and owner of the vessel, kept him in irons twenty hours, broached the cargo, and manifested other mutinous conduct, intending, it was alleged, to take the vessel to the West Indies. During the captain's imprisonment his desk was broken open, and the official log was stolen. Whilst the captain was in irons some of the crew of the Jane Clark signalled a barque that was passing, who sent a boat on board, released the captain, and removed the spirits and fire-arms. On the part of the prisoners it was alleged that the affair was commenced by the captain, who threatened to murder the steward, and that he was prevented from accomplishing his purpose by being confined. There was a great deal of recriminatory evidence given on both sides, and ultimately the captain declined to prosecute, and the men were set at liberty.

THE ROD WITH A VENGEANCE.—Henry Jones, a child twelve years of age, lives with his mother at Shoreham in Sussex. He is at work all the week, and on Sundays used to go to school at Southwick. The master, George Wright, had been displeased with the boy; and on Sunday week he threw him down, gave him some forty blows with a cane, asked him if he had had enough, and then conveyed him with the other scholars to church. In the evening the poor boy got home, and told his mother his sufferings. That they were not small may be inferred from the testimony of a surgeon, Mr. Fuller, who said:—"I have seen a good deal of hospital practice, but never saw so severe a case of this kind. I could trace about thirty wounds on his back." George Wright was very properly summoned before the magistrates at Shoreham, and, the above facts being detailed in evidence, the magistrates "thought the ends of justice would be obtained by inflicting a fine of 10s. and costs."

A COLLIERLY INSURATED.—Ten lives were lost last week at the Cle Colliery, near Llanelli, Carmarthen-shire, by the flooding of the pit; one of the men suddenly striking into an old vein filled with water. The water, which rose to a great height, will have to be pumped out of the pit before the bodies can be recovered.

BRAWLING IN CHURCH.—A magistrates' petty sessions was held at Thornbury, on Saturday, to hear an information preferred by the churchwardens against Miss Elizabeth Sly, arising out of the disturbances which arose for some time taken place in the church respecting the right to sit in a certain pew. After the case had been gone into, Earl Ducie, who was upon the bench, suggested that Miss Sly should give an assurance that she would not repeat her attempts to enter the pew. Miss Sly, having consulted with her professional adviser, gave the required assurance, and the information was withdrawn.

THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER AT OXFORD.—The anniversary of the "Gunpowder Plot" was commemorated at Oxford by the customary demonstrations between the "Gown and Town;" but they were not so violent as usual. About eight o'clock in the evening, a number of boys, who always commence the rows by shouting "Gown, gown," made their appearance, and opened operations. This was the signal for the "roughs" to assemble, and for the gowmen to cluster in groups, and thus to parade the streets. For common sense, however, showed an inclination to take part in a row, and there was less business in the way of encounters than heretofore; though a few rash and raw freshmen, who were desirous of becoming practically acquainted with a gown and town row, had their wishes gratified, perhaps, to a greater extent than they bargained for. For years past the 5th of November riots have degenerated until they have become so ridiculous that few care to take any part in such inglorious struggles.

ANTI-CONFESSIONAL MEETING AT LIVERPOOL.—On Friday evening several thousand persons met in the Liverpool Amphitheatre to protest against the system of auricular confession and other Romish practices recently introduced into the service of the Church of England by Mr. Grosley and other ministers. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Dr. Hugh McNeill, who, in a lengthy and elaborate speech, denied that there was anything in the services of the Church of England to warrant the practice of auricular confession. The Reverend Doctor minutely examined the "exhortation," "homilies," and other services on which the Tractarian party rely for arguments in favour of confession, and said that they only required confession of sins to God. Auricular confession was, in fact, a nasty gratification of a nasty curiosity, which was most unmistakably banished from the services of the Church of England when King Edward's Prayer-book was revised in 1661. In conclusion, the Reverend Doctor said that at present they could only put a stop to such disgraceful and anti-English practices by exposure; and as to arguing the question, he should only be too glad to have an opportunity of examining any arguments which the Tractarian party choose to discuss. The Rev. Dr. Blakeney also denounced the practice as evil, and purely Catholic; and at length it was resolved:—"That, in the deliberate judgment of this meeting, confession of sin to a fellow-man (whatever may be his office), for the purpose of procuring forgiveness, either indirectly through the ministrations of man, or directly from God himself, is utterly repugnant to the religion of Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and cannot be practised in any nation without serious injury to both the morality and the liberty of the people." The meeting was adjourned to the 17th instant, the ter-centenary of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne.

GREAT BANQUET TO BRIGHT AND GIBSON AT MANCHESTER.—Arrangements have been made for a banquet to be held at the Free-trade Hall, Manchester, to Messrs. Bright and Gibson, "to congratulate the Honourable Member for Birmingham on his restoration to health; to celebrate the return of himself and his late colleague to Parliament for Birmingham and Ashton; and to thank them for their patriotic conduct during the last session of Parliament, as well as for their long and faithful services as representatives for the city of Manchester." Upwards of 600 gentlemen have already sent in their names as willing to act on the committee, including several members of Parliament. The banquet is to take place on the 18th of December.

SHOOTING AT AN ENGINE DRIVER.—Last week an attempt was made to shoot the driver and stoker of a goods train on the Midland Railway. The train was approaching a bridge near Ekeington Station, about four in the morning, when the stoker caught sight of two men on the bridge, one of whom had a gun, which appeared to be pointed over the parapet in the direction of the engine. He communicated with the driver, and both stooped down; but no sooner had they done so, than the glass screen in front of the engine was shattered. We regret that the perpetrators of the outrage remain yet undiscovered.

FORGERY OF AUSTRIAN BANK NOTES.—Two Hungarians have been arrested at Hamburg for forging Austrian bank notes, many of which are in circulation all over the Continent. They are so perfectly executed as to deceive even the Austrian National Bank officials themselves, who have pronounced several of the forged notes genuine. On examining the rogues' baggage, no less than 10,000 of these forged notes were found. The delinquents have been handed over to the Austrian authorities to answer for their share in inundating Austria with paper money, of which there was already more than enough in circulation.

AN UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENON.—A correspondent writes—"In the autumn of 1855, the people on the hills and coast of the upper part of Cardiganshire heard constantly, in still weather, low, sullen reports, as of heavy artillery firing at a great distance. Generally it was in the west, the sound coming over the sea, and so distinct that it was often taken for ships in distress. But it was heard in other quarters; in the north-east very frequently. Two or three reports usually followed rapidly, and often for an interval of twenty minutes it would not be heard again. It was much louder at times than at others, and some of the explosions had a strangely subterranean sound. A person who frequently heard it, described it as exactly resembling the proving of large ordnance in a proof-house, heard at a distance. These sounds were heard at the intervals of days, and sometimes weeks, through the winter of 1855-56, and ceased to be observed in the following spring. On the hills, far inland, it was heard as loud as nearer the sea; and at first the people on the hills only supposed it to be some unusual blastings in the lead mines of the neighbourhood. There was much excitement about it at the time. To-day (November 5), between 2 and 3 p.m., the weather slightly hazy, with a light breeze from the south-west, I distinctly and repeatedly heard again these strange sounds, at first in a southerly direction, and afterwards coming due west over the sea. They seemed to me louder than I ever remember."

WHAT IS A PEER?—It is easy to ask "what is a peer?" and to answer that he is "a fortunate individual who is born with a silver spoon in his mouth." We should like to know what Mr. Bright would think if the Duke of Devonshire was to get up at a public meeting, and having asked "What is a cotton-spinner?" were to reply, "He is a fortunate individual who is born with cotton-wool in his ears."—Saturday Review.

THE "TIMES" ON REFORM.

"WHAT do we want with a Reform Bill?" would be an honest, though dangerous, question. It is one which, to say the truth, we should find it not easy to answer. The most natural and reasonable measure for the valuation of a machine, an improvement, or anything whatever, is its use, the work it is to perform, or the good it is to do us. *Cui bono?* Will a Reformed House of Commons be more economical than the present? Will it be less ready to go to war? Will it spend less in ships, dockyards, "harbours of refuge," barracks, public buildings, grants, and what not? Will it do with a less staff of civil servants? Will it cut down Royalty? What will it do? These questions were all asked, and in the eyes of the people had vast significance, during the fifteen years between the Battle of Waterloo and the introduction of the first Reform Bill. But then there were multitudes of absolute sinecures; there were pensions not only undeserved, but disgraceful; there were close Corporations, a Church Establishment clogged up with pluralists and sinecurists—worse even than now, which is saying a good deal; there were abuses heaped up high as Pelion upon Pelion in the Law Courts. Everywhere there was an evil prescription in favour of robbery and wrong, a real prejudice against the right, and a proud determination to stand or fall with the bad. There were boroughs utterly corrupt, extinct, or only surviving in corruption; there were immense cities without a representative. Strange to say, in those days people thought much more of what Parliament was to do than what was to be done with Parliament itself. They addressed their long list of grievances to the existing House of Commons, and, if the House had done its duty then, it might very possibly have remained to this day, and the grassy mound of Old Sarum might still rejoice in its two representatives. But of course that House of Commons did not do its duty; of course, it put off to ever-receding future all the work it could stuff off from the present hour. So there was no reform in anything, to speak of, till one fine day an equally proud, equally self-satisfied, and equally obstinate Government on the other side the Straits was overthrown and expelled in an hour, and a new dynasty came in with all sorts of fine promises. Then the people understood that the way to get Reform was to revolutionise the Government itself. In this country the real Government is not a Royal dynasty, but a representative system; so, instead of expelling the King and his family, the equivalent course here was to expel the most corrupt and purely prescriptive part of our representatives, and introduce the popular element by representing more fairly and fully the population and property. In our time, beyond all dispute, the case is just the contrary. There never was less cry for general Reform, or less complaint against the efficiency and the principles of the existing House of Commons. But Parliamentary Reform is wanted for its own sake. The dress is very comfortable, it is warm, it keeps its shape and colour, it wears very well—almost too well—but Miss wants a new one, and a new one she must have.

The expectation is sure to fulfil itself in some shape or fashion. We may not want a thing for its use, or for any purpose at all, but simply for its own sake. As you want a large house which you cannot fill, even inhabit, a park you do not care to walk in, a conservatory you never enter, equipages you never use, horses you are afraid to ride, pictures the value of which you take on trust, books you find it a bore to read, and all that all the world wants, so you want—for it is become a very general want—another Parliamentary reform. It matters nothing who wants it in particular. We don't believe that you, my dear Boston, fret much that your borough of Marylebone should still have only two members for its 100,000 inhabitants; nor have we heard Jones lament over the political destitution of his native Finsbury; still less can we recall that Robinson feels himself a cipher because he has no opportunity at all of recording, otherwise than in conversation or in print, his deep convictions upon all social topics. Yet, though there is really no such thing to be found as a man wanting Parliamentary reform for his own sake, or the sake of his friends, or for the sake of the nation, or for the sake of what it is to do; yet it has its lovers, and they love it as true lovers ought and do—for its own sake. They love it as a young gentleman loves a young lady, or a little boy the moon—for its own sweet beauty and soft lustre.

The question once opened, and perhaps receiving an extraordinary impulse from unexpected events, will only be settled by a very extensive measure. That measure we no more dread than we earnestly desire. Englishmen of all ranks and degrees are much more Englishmen than some politicians suppose. Had the metropolis returned its quota of fifty members to Parliament for the last thirty years, and had the prevailing sentiments of Lambeth and the Tower Hamlets been more largely and directly represented, we doubt whether England would have been governed very differently than it has. We doubt whether the representatives of the London artificers, coal-porters, and even costermongers, would have permitted Nicholas to take quiet possession of Constantinople and the Dardanelles; whether they would have allowed Yeh to go on bullying our people at Canton; whether they would have surrendered India to the dominion of Nana Sahib; whether they would have been for leaving us entirely at the mercy of French colonels and French admirals; whether even they would have kept a tighter hold on our expenditure than the Ministers we have had these 50 years. As they could not have governed the country either better or worse, or very differently in any respect, so we cannot believe the State would be shipwrecked at once, even if there should be a very large infusion of the democratic element. No. Our Parliamentary Reformers have something much more serious to apprehend. It is, that they may possibly find themselves shut up altogether. These colossal hobbies, even in the hour of victory, leave their riders in the lurch. It was so even with the great cause of Free Trade. Success left a void in the designs and the very souls of its promoters. There is no more striking fact in the history of this country than the very slight difference which the Reform Bill has made in the character of our statesmen and of our measures. If there be any change, it is that our policy has been more practical and less at the mercy of either prejudice or speculation. Take a hundred seats from the less populous towns and districts and give them to the more populous, and increase the constituencies by some 20 or 30 per cent., and we cannot believe that this country will be found to have undergone a greater transformation than it did, by the showing of the results in 1832.

OUR COAST DEFENCES.

A RESOLUTION has just been taken in connection with the defences of these islands which will be satisfactory to the country. The whole of the Artillery Regiments of Militia are to be embodied for permanent duty, and the corps will be employed to strengthen the garrisons now stationed in the forts along the coast. A measure more strictly defensive, or more completely in accordance with scientific economy of power, it would be difficult to conceive.

When the Militia was first called out, five or six years ago, it was decided that every county having a seaboard should maintain a certain quota of its force in the form of artillery, independently of the ordinary battalion representing the shire. Thus, besides the Militia of Norfolk and Suffolk, for instance, there is the Militia Artillery of those two counties, which could be called out and embodied for duty without disturbing the regiments themselves. These Artillery Corps are not very strong, being equivalent in numbers perhaps only to a company or two, but they have been generally well trained, and constitute in the aggregate not only a most effective but an eminently useful force. The first and most natural defence of a coast is by means of artillery, and the corps being by the very nature of their service available in every county, would form a military Coast Guard along the whole circumference of the kingdom, armed with the very weapons best adapted to the duty. They can strengthen the garrisons of our chief arsenals, man detached forts, or manœuvre with field artillery between any points of the coast so that the force maintained at home for the protection of the kingdom could be at all times well supported by this most powerful arm. In fact the embodiment of these corps was the necessary complement of the works recently undertaken for the general defence of our shores.

MR. BRIGHT AND THE PARLIAMENTARY REFORM ASSOCIATION.

The London Parliamentary Reform Association, awakened into activity by the approach of the session and the speech of Mr. Bright, called a conference, on Friday, at the Guildhall Coffee-house. About 120 gentlemen were present. Mr. Clay, member for Hull, occupied the chair. There were eight other members present: Mr. John Bright, Mr. Roebuck, Mr. Russell, Mr. Cox, Mr. Coningham, Mr. White, Mr. Williams, Mr. Donald Nicoll. Among the other persons were Mr. Mall, Mr. Samuel Morley, Mr. Peter Taylor. The meeting first heard a report of what had been done by the Society since last year. It was held that its proposal for an occupation franchise in boroughs, a £10 franchise in counties, the ballot, a redistribution of seats, and triennial Parliaments, had found such favour with the country, that a Bill embodying these principles ought to be introduced into Parliament. On the high, this proposition was adopted. Then came the chief business of the meeting—the formal appointment of Mr. Bright as the leader of the party. Mr. Roebuck moved, and Mr. Mall seconded, a resolution, formally requesting Mr. Bright, “after consultation with friends of the cause with whom he may see fit to advise, to prepare and take charge of such a measure.”

Mr. Bright, in answer to this request, spoke at some length. He had long been of opinion that a Bill prepared by the earnest reformers should be placed before Parliament. Our statesmen have not made adequate use of what is wanted. We must have that the hereditary privilege will learn from what is passing that it must make greater steps forward. As to the request made to him, he said:

“I know the tremendous responsibility it imposes upon me if I accept the duty you so kindly wish to commit to me. I have no pretensions whatever to lead the popular party out of doors or to act as a leader in the House of Commons. I have never made any pretensions whatsoever to a leadership, for I know how much in many respects my natural disadvantages are for such a place. No man can lead a political party long or successfully who is not in some way pleasant and simple, though he may be in some sense or other to follow that party. Now, as you know, I have not been very pleasant. I have always endeavoured to follow what I thought right in all cases that came before me; but I hope I am not unwelcome, and I shall not be unwilling, on this question, with which I am more directly connected, to make what concessions are reasonable or necessary, in order to promote the great object we have in view.”

Then he pointed out the difficulties that beset the settlement of the question—enormous if not unconquerable. None (he said) are afraid, of the great body of the people, of any possible extension of the suffrage.

“But it is not looking fairly at our difficulty to say that if you offer every man a vote every man will be in your favour. Bear in mind that you live in a country where, till now, it has been but a dream with the working man that he could have a vote at all. We have a great number of hereditary legislators possessing vast property all over the United Kingdom. In the House of Commons you have the sons, and the brother, and nominees of those hereditary legislators; and in the press you have a large number of newspapers which appear to exist but to support the dominant party, and now and then, as occasion may offer, doing a little for the public. And again, outside amongst the public you have rich persons, great merchants, wealthy bankers, large capitalists, professional men, who have been taught to believe that it is pernicious and most hazardous to their position that political power should be spread with any degree of fairness amongst all classes of the people. The endeavour must be to meet the general opinion rather than seek a permanent settlement of the question.”

In accepting the post offered to him, Mr. Bright reserved to himself the use of his judgment both in framing the bill and bringing it in. Before he sat down, Mr. Bright repeated his warning against placing confidence in the present Government, of whose conversion we have no clear proof, “though the hearts of some of them appear a little touched,” and treated with scorn the charge that he was setting class against class. He had a word to say to the Whigs:—

“There is one class of whom, before I conclude, I would say a word, and that is the Whig politicians and statesmen. It has been said that the only person I complimented at Birmingham was Lord John Russell. It has not been alleged, I believe, that I made any personal attack upon any one. But Lord John Russell has for many years been surrounded by a number of noblemen and gentlemen who have been considered the leaders of the Whig party, and it is a curious fact, that however much some of them did for reform thirty years ago, since that time they have made almost no progress at all. I refer to them to say that I have no wish to place myself in opposition to them, as I believe you have not. We want to accomplish certain objects which we believe to be good, and we should be delighted if all, or any, of those parties would throw in their strength with ours, and that as the great Whig party and the great people's party thirty years ago acted together to make a great step in advance upon the question of Parliamentary Reform, so we should rejoice again to welcome one and all of them who will unite their strength with ours, and so enable us to settle this question on such a basis that whatever may have been our subjects of discussion in past years, there shall be henceforward no cause for jealous feeling on the part of one class against another, and no complaint or grievance that any class of the community is purposely excluded from political power.”

In conclusion, Mr. Bright urged the necessity of organising the country and collecting the sinews of war. About £400 were subscribed on the spur of the moment.

ELECTION REFORM.—A useful blue-book in reference to the franchise has been published. It gives the name of county parishes, with their populations, their estimated rental, their rateable value, the number of persons rated at £10 and less than £50, the number rated at £50, and the number of electors on the Parliamentary register. In the way of summing up, we find that, in the counties of England and Wales, the £50 renters, as here given, amount to nearly 200,000. Those rated at £10 and below £50 are more than double that number. A £10 suffrage for counties would, therefore, treble the number of residents entitled to vote for county members.

OPENING PARLIAMENT IN TAHITI.—The “*Moniteur Tahitien*” publishes an account of the opening of the native Legislative Assembly at Tahiti, on the 12th of July, at which the Queen delivered to her husband the following speech, in Tahitian, requesting him to read it to the Assembly:—“Gentlemen, after more than a year's absence from Tahiti, which time I have passed at Raiatea, whither my duties as a mother had called me, I am happy to find myself in the midst of the Assembly, which, in accordance with the Imperial Commissioner, I have called together conformably to the law. At the news of the attempt of the 14th of January, I, like you, offered up thanks to God for having saved the life of the Emperor Napoleon, our powerful protector, so precious to France, to Europe, and to these islands. The most perfect understanding has never ceased to subsist between the Imperial Commissioner and myself. I have proved my confidence in him by placing on board his vessel my well-beloved son Joinville, for the purpose of being educated, and learning the French language. I have every reason to be satisfied with this arrangement. Continue, gentlemen, to assist the Imperial Commissioner in improving our laws, and in spreading among the people instruction and a taste for labour and order. You will thus worthily fulfil the mandate which is conferred on you by the law and by the choice of the inhabitants of the various districts. Our common efforts having also for object to render these islands prosperous and happy, we may rely on the protection of Divine Providence.” The Imperial Commissioner afterwards addressed the Assembly in a long speech, in which he drew a very flattering picture of the prosperous state of the country. The President of the Assembly made a brief reply, in which he assured the Queen that she might always rely on the devotedness of the Assembly.

THE BRITISH BANK.—A depositor in the Royal British Bank desires to remind the liquidators that the creditors have been anxiously waiting many months for an announcement of a further dividend. It was fully held out that if the creditors would accept 15s. 6d. in the pound a speedy settlement might be effected, but at present little more has been distributed than the assets actually in hand at the time of the stoppage.

A PORTRAIT OF LOUIS NAPOLEON.—At the opening of the Paris law courts, on Wednesday, M. Chaix d'Estange, the Procureur-General, addressed the Judges of the Imperial Court. Speaking against any display of hot temper, he said:—“The Prince whom we serve has taken from us the right to make our pre-occupations an excuse for impatience towards those with whom we have business. What sovereign has ever shown more calmness than he has done in the midst of the most varied trials? Who has ever given more examples of moderation and of kindness? He remains everywhere calm and accessible, advising or consoling those whom he cannot satisfy, receiving here the most humble applications, while he carries to the confines of the world the arms and the glory of France. Let us serve the Prince who governs us as he wishes to be served; let us be, like him, patient and kind; let us enter into the feeling of moderation before which parties hesitate and the people of France become enthusiastic in those journeys which are real triumphs.”

THE NEW LORD MAYOR.

ALDERMAN WIFE having been duly sworn in on Monday, inaugurated the first day of his rule, on Tuesday, by the customary procession to Westminster, where the ceremonies of his induction were completed. In all this there was nothing remarkable, except that the procession was arranged less after the ancient fashion in that kind, than heretofore, and was so much the less worth looking at. But the day was fine; the streets were thronged; the old flags were hung out again at intervals along the line of route; bells were rung; and Ethiopian serenade, Punch and Judies, brass bands, performers on the bagpipes, and dancers of the Highland fling, graced the occasion, as of yore. The new Mayor was well received by the “populace,” but the fallen fortunes of the late potentate were embittered by many shouts of derision—of “chaff,” in fact.

THE BANQUET.—LORD DERRY'S SPEECH.

The banquet at the Guildhall was attended by the Earl of Derby, the Lord Chancellor, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Earl of Malmesbury, Lord Colchester, the Earl of Hardwicke, Lord Stanley, General Peel, Sir E. B. Lytton, Sir J. Pakington, Secretary Walpole, Lord Brougham, Lord John Russell, Lord Chief-Justice Campbell and five or six others of her Majesty's judges, the Duke of Malakoff and other foreign ministers, besides a host of well-known but less official men.

General Peel and Sir J. Pakington made speeches *apropos* of the army and navy; in these there was nothing remarkable. The Duke of Malakoff's remarks were so much like those which usually fall from his lips on such occasions, that it would almost seem as if he had been furnished with a formula, within which he is bound to confine himself. He had the fullest confidence in the profound wisdom of his Sovereign, and in his determination, consistently with the dignity of his Crown and the preservation of his honour, to do all in his power to prevent those conflicts which might trouble the tranquillity of the world. It was the sincere and earnest desire of the Emperor to strengthen the friendly alliance between France and England—a work representative of his Majesty, were also strenuously directed.

The Lord Mayor made a rather clever but at the same time very obvious attempt to “draw the Ministers out,” in the speech in which he proposed their health. He observed that the Government had it in their power to modify and purify the domestic institutions of the country, so as to make them in accordance with the wishes of the people; they had it in their power to introduce retrenchment, economy, and reform into the public administration, to improve, simplify, and cheapen the law, to bring in measures conducive to the moral and physical health of the nation.

Lord Derby replied to this toast, of course; and we must quote his speech at some length. Comparing the state of the kingdom at the period when Sir Richard Carden entered the civic chair and the present time, his Lordship said:—

“It is not necessary for me in order to heighten the picture, to draw a contrast between the then situation and the present, or to remind you of that condition of gloom, distress, and difficulty which extended over the whole of the commercial world, of which some here no doubt had painful experience, and from which few indeed at those extensively engaged in mercantile affairs can have escaped altogether unscathed. Nor is it necessary for me to remind you of the apprehensions, the doubts, and the anxieties which existed with regard to that formidable revolt by which our Indian empire was at that time shaken to its foundation. But a brighter picture is now before us. I rejoice to think that there are all the indications in the country of returning prosperity. We have been blessed by Almighty Providence with a harvest of more than usual abundance, which, in the south of this kingdom at least, has been collected under circumstances of unparalleled success and good fortune. We have a revenue which fully equals the anticipations of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Money is abundant. Trade and commerce are slowly, but, I hope, surely, reviving from the panic and distress of the past unhappy year. Labour is amply remunerated; there is abundant employment for it, and, as a proof that the fact is so, I am able to state that, whereas between September of last year and March of the present year there was a fearful augmentation in the rate and extent of pauperism, not only has that augmentation altogether disappeared, but the amount of pauperism in the last week of September just past was considerably below that of the corresponding week of September of the previous year. Such is our situation at home. Now let us cast our eyes abroad, and I rejoice to say that we have every reason to feel entire reliance upon the preservation to the world at large of the inestimable blessings of peace. I do not say that complications may not arise, or that differences may not present themselves between different countries; but this I do say, that all the great Powers of Europe are fully convinced, if not of the sinfulness of war, at all events of the necessary evils attendant upon a state of war, and that the valuable labours of diplomacy are directed—and never were they employed with more success and with more zeal than at the present time—to smooth difficulties, to remove obstacles, and to find in every difficult place which may occur between various Powers a peaceable rather than a hostile solution. Turning next to the great empire of India, if I cannot say that the hostilities—or rather the blood-hed—which are going on there have altogether ceased, I hope I may congratulate the country on the fact that, in the main, the organised rebellion is put down; and after the season which has interfered with our military operations has terminated, I doubt not that the energy and the abilities of Lord Clyde, supported as he has been by large reinforcements from this country, aided by the discretion and judgment of the Governor-General, and also—I may venture to express a hope—by the gracious message of peace and mercy which her Majesty was advised to send out upon her accession to her Indian empire—I trust that all these combined will shortly restore not only the supremacy of our power, but tranquillity and contentment to our extensive possessions in Hindostan. If we go further eastward, I rejoice to think that the negotiations which have been carried on by her Majesty in conjunction with her august ally the Emperor of the French, have led to a conclusion of those somewhat anomalous hostilities, of the commencement and the origin of which I will say nothing, but of which I rejoice to be able to say that, without further bloodshed, they have now been terminated, and that by a peace not less honourable to this country than I am persuaded it will be advantageous to the interests of commerce and civilisation generally. I should do gross injustice to one of the most deserving public servants I know if I did not take this, the earliest public opportunity I have had, of declaring that for the success of these negotiations England is deeply indebted to the ability, the tact, the determination, and the perseverance of her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, the Earl of Elgin. By that distinguished nobleman, a further and most unexpected extension of our commercial relations has been negotiated with the hitherto secluded, but not unimportant, empire of Japan. I believe that that treaty, if properly made use of, will tend greatly to extend the commercial interests of this country; but I trust that I shall not be thought presumptuous or impertinent if I say that the advantages to be derived by this country will greatly depend upon the good judgment, the peaceable demeanour, and the orderly conduct of the agents of those whose commercial enterprise may lead them to embark in speculations in that distant land. It is of the first importance—and I trust you will forgive me for saying so—that those who go out there as the pioneers of British commerce, should be more careful than I am afraid our countrymen have sometimes shown themselves to be, not to wound prejudices, to ridicule, or to trample upon customs which appear strange to them, but the violation of which cannot but produce unfavourable impressions of foreigners upon the minds of natives with whom they are only beginning to trade.”

But his Lordship disclaimed any credit for himself or his coadjutors, on account of the improved prospect of affairs, for much was due to causes wholly beyond their control. He spoke not for the glorification of the Government of which he was a member, but as an Englishman to an assembly of Englishmen, to whom the welfare and prosperity of their common country could not be an object of indifference. Again advertising to the peace question, his Lordship said:—

“My belief is that the policy on the part of this country which is best calculated to maintain the peace of the world, is, in the first place, a firm but temperate maintenance of our own rights; in the next place, a studious and careful recognition of, and respect for, the rights of others, together with an anxious desire not to interfere unnecessarily with the internal affairs of other States; and also a determination not willingly to give or to take offence, a determination if offence unhappily arise, to have recourse to the principle which, to its endless honour, was embodied in the protocols of the Conference of Paris, viz., to resort in the first instance not to hostilities but to the good offices and the mediation of some friendly Power. Last of all I hold, as the cardinal point of all our foreign policy, the firm and unflinching adherence, in spirit as well as in the letter, to every treaty obligation into which this country may have entered. These are the principles on which her Majesty's present Government desire to act; and these are the principles which I should be indeed deeply grieved and mortified if, whenever we have to account to Parliament for any part of our conduct, we should not be able to show that we have steadily adhered to and inflexibly maintained.”

As to the alliance—

“Although it is absurd to suppose that between any two countries there can be an all subjects perfect and entire identity of feelings, yet that never was there a moment in the history of the two nations when their relations stood upon a more perfectly friendly footing, or when on the one side and on the other there was a more earnest desire, consistently with the honour of both countries, to maintain that alliance which has so long subsisted for their mutual happiness, or a more firm and thorough conviction that its maintenance is an incalculable advantage not only to the two Powers themselves, but to the interests of the world at large.”

The Earl of Derby then noticed the Lord Mayor's attempt to lead out the ministerial intentions for next session—

“In speaking of her Majesty's present Government, my Lord Mayor, you have been kind enough to give us a species of programme for the coming session. That programme is somewhat extensive, but you have omitted to show us in what manner and by what assistance we may be enabled to carry the whole of it into effect. I cannot help thinking that the advice so kindly tendered to her Majesty's Government was hardly intended so much in the spirit of advice, as thrown out to elicit an expression of our opinions. You have baited the hook, no doubt, with great skill and address, but some of us have lived many years in the world and have learned to be somewhat cautious. We do not intend to take the bait. We prefer to be judged by our actions rather than by our intentions, by our performance rather than by our promises, and, with whatever respect I may regard this important assembly, I cannot persuade myself that this is an occasion on which to anticipate the speech to be delivered from the Throne at the commencement of next session, or on which to take out of her Majesty's mouth, from which it would fall so much more gracefully than from mine, the announcement of the intentions of her Government. But this I venture to say, that, after enjoying that brief period of partial repose which alone a Minister of State can hope to obtain at any time of the year, I am actively, daily, and assiduously engaged with my colleagues in considering and maturing the details of those measures of legal, social, financial, and political improvement which I hope by the commencement of the session to be able to submit to the impartial judgment of Parliament. As a Conservative Government, we look with reverence and adhere with affection to the great institutions of this country, under which, I will venture to say, the people enjoy as great an amount of civil and religious liberty, as perfect and entire a freedom and independence of thought, word, and action, as any nation on the face of the earth now or at any former time. But we shall not forget that those institutions were not the creation of a day or the simultaneous production of a single generation; that, on the contrary, they have been formed by successive additions and improvements; that they possess a flexibility which enables them to be adapted to the growing intelligence and the growing wants and requirements of each successive generation; and though I may be unable to satisfy your Lordship's very natural curiosity as to the precise nature of the measures which we shall bring forward, I venture to assure you that they will be couched in a spirit of not endeavouring to serve this or that section of the community, but the whole people—not to legislate for the rich or for the poor, but for the well-understood benefit and advantage of all classes.”

Mr. Disraeli also spoke in acknowledgment of the toast, “The House of Commons,” but his remarks were chiefly complimentary. Lord Brougham made some observations of the same character.

LAMENTABLE.—Not long since might be seen, and I perhaps still retain, at one of the balconies of Chelsea Suspension Bridge, a gentleman who has been a soldier, and has come through his work then so much as the present day who have been employed in Europe and the colonies. For his career, he believes, has been run in India. This gentleman only rose to the rank of sergeant, he received his wound only on his head, and he has a commission, which several of his brothers, however, had attained by one means or other. Amongst the cases of his regiment was broken heart but he could point to the record of long and faithful service. His family had been in the army for many years, for many of them had served with very great distinction, though not always with very great profit; and the best of them was no other than Sir Harry Haycock, whose wife, Lady Haycock, received something like an ovation in her husband's room, when he left him if he had perished of his wounds and hardships, and while his name was still taking toll at Chelsea Suspension Bridge for his duty heart.—Spectator.

NEAT EVASION.—The Bishop of Oxford has been asked by one of the Foreign Affairs Committees to explain how it was that he should have stated at Bradford that “God has opened up China,” when, in the House of Lords last session, he had denounced God's vengeance against the very act of opening up. To this the Bishop replies, “I have altered not one of my views on the Chinese question, nor have I expressed the slightest commendation of what I formerly condemned. It is an attribute of God's inscrutable Providence that the crimes of men are made to work out the accomplishment of His purposes, and it is no commendation of those crimes to accept the condition which results in part from them as a fact in the government of the world.”

THE PRINCE OF WALES.—At the anniversary of the Royal Free Watermen and Lightermen's Asylum, celebrated last week, a letter was read from Sir C. B. Phipps, in which it was said that it has been considered advisable to decline for the present applications from other establishments for the patronage of the Prince of Wales, but “his Royal Highness having, during the past year, resided some time in Richmond Park, and, in consequence of the proximity of the residence to the Thames, the young prince having passed some time in the exercise of rowing upon that river, her Majesty has thought that this might be considered an exceptional case, and I have therefore the pleasure to inform you that the Queen has been pleased to approve of the Prince of Wales granting the prayer of your memorial, and I am commanded to forward to you the enclosed cheque for £50 as a donation from his Royal Highness towards the funds of the asylum. Prince Alfred is too young to bestow his patronage upon public institutions, and being at present from England, the application as relates to him cannot be complied with.”

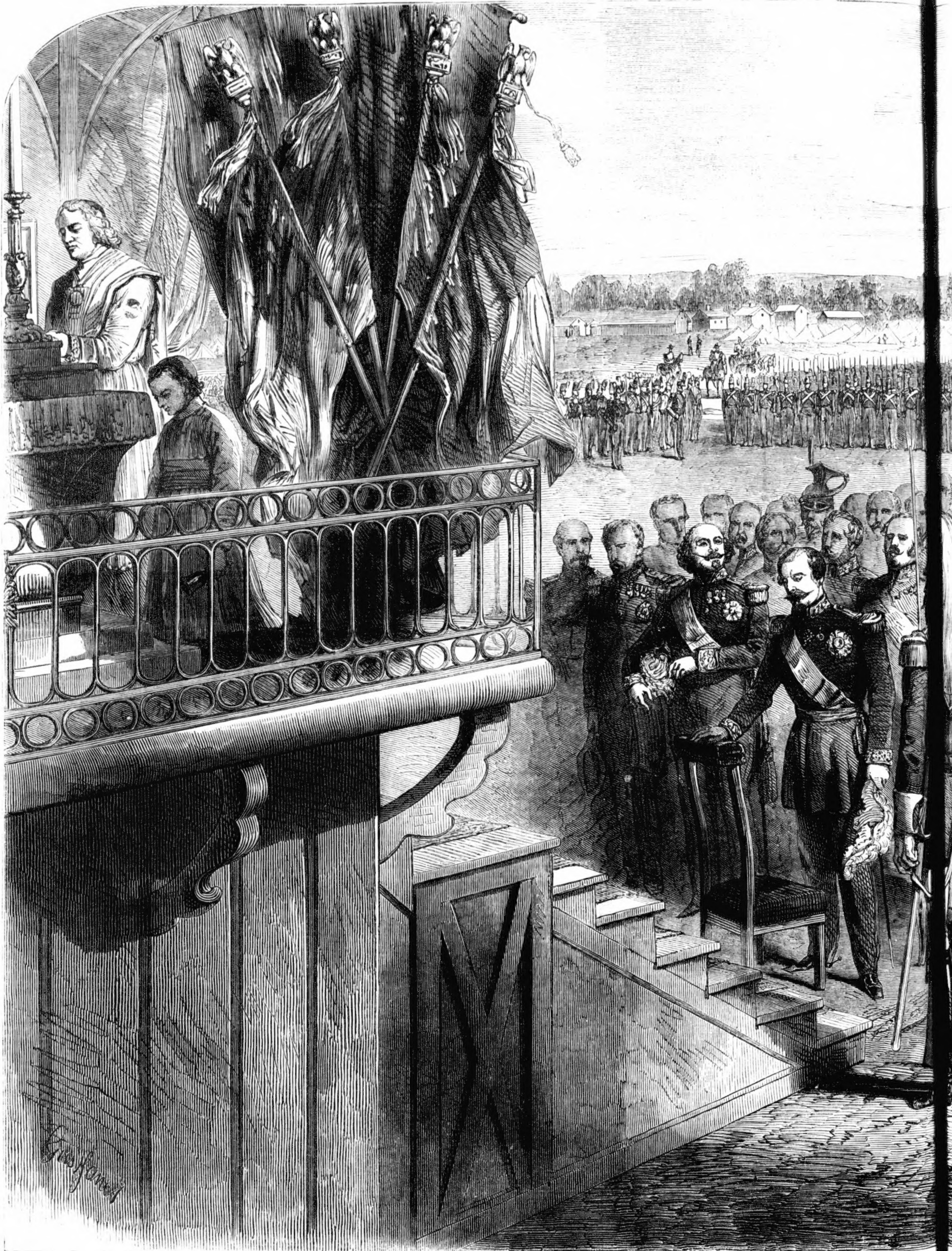
FIFTH OF NOVEMBER ACCIDENTS.—Mr. Thomas, a medical practitioner, was returning from Streatham to Norwood, with his daughter and child, on Friday evening week, when his horse took fright at the explosion of some rockets. The animal, rushing madly down the hill, dashed against a cart, and Mr. Thomas was thrown out and killed. His daughter and the child were seriously injured.—At Oldham, a Mr. Shiers, with some of his workpeople, not content with ordinary fireworks, amused themselves with firing off two little cannons. At length, while a charge was being rammed hard home, by the ingenious expedient of striking the ramrod with a hammer, one of the guns burst, and four or five persons were more or less injured. One poor fellow had both his hands blown away.

LAUNCH OF THE PARAMATTA STEAMER.—A first-class paddle-wheel iron steamer, of 3,000 tons burden, built for the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, at the Thames Iron and Ship-building Works, was launched on Monday from the company's yard at Blackwall. The lines of this vessel were only laid down in February last, but so expeditious has been her construction that she floated on Monday a perfect ship, with the exception of her engine, which are to be transferred from the old Orinoco, belonging to the Royal Mail Company. A sister ship is now being built for the same company on an adjoining slip. An engraving representing the launch of the Paramatta will appear in our next week's number.

MILITARY MASS AT THE CAMP AT CHALONS.

We have already, in a former number, illustrated an incident in the camp life of Napoleon III. We then pictured him to our readers in his assumption of the *trouper*, and now introduce him to their notice as a *bon paroissien*. We are only quoting his own definition of a Christian when we give him this appellation. Some time back, the Emperor was a regular attendant at the Church of St. Germain l'Auxerrois, which is the parish church of the Tuilleries. Monsieur le curé, greatly admiring the devoutness of so distinguished a member of his flock, took an opportunity to compliment his Imperial Majesty on the good example he set to others of lesser degree, to which his Majesty responded: “I but do that which it becomes every good parishioner to do.”

Our engraving represents his Majesty in the exercise of a more imposing religious duty—a military mass, performed in the camp at Chalons. The ceremony was a most imposing one. The wide plain around the altar was filled with troops drawn up in battle array, while behind them stood countless multitudes of the surrounding country people. Apart from a certain degree of theatrical display, it was indeed a most impressive spectacle, especially at the moment when Monseigneur the Bishop of Nancy, first almoner to the Court, elevated the host. At this point the guns pealed forth their thundering salutes, the drums beat, arms were presented, and colours lowered, as the sacred symbol was raised on high. The figure on the right of the Emperor, in the engraving (which was sketched on the spot), is Marshal Canrobert, the commander-in-chief of the troops encamped at Chalons.



THE EMPEROR ATTENDING MILITARY

having actually attained the sedate age of nineteen. She is somewhat handsome, if a Moorish woman really is handsome, but the most enthusiastic admirers of "Lalla Rookh," would find the real original a somewhat heavy affair. She sat perfectly motionless in the dim obscurity of her tent, regarding the multitude of strangers with an expression which might have been apathy, or shyness, or simply the result of the extreme heat. She was not splendidly dressed, not having as yet donned her bridal toilette, and refusing to do so till the crowd about her had ceased. It could not be said that she looked exactly uncomfortable; indeed, I suppose that on the whole the transition from her father's to her husband's house afforded more independence, and more social consideration, and though "bad was the best," she probably preferred it rather than not. I imagine that the civil ceremony had already been performed in the day time, and that all the company would have to clear out before the bridegroom could enter the house for the religious one. By half-past ten, finding the noise, the heat, and the incessant chatter rising beyond endurance, we took our leave; but must not forget to say that we saw a little dancing by Moresques, which, however, was monotonous, and in no way impressive. Anything more savage than the whole festival can hardly be imagined, the noise, the oddity of seeing so many women together, the gold and silver, the diamonds, the eating and drinking, and the incessant drumming on the tambours, making it quite a desperate affair. Fresh and cold seemed the streets of old Algiers after the fracas, as we mounted up again to our carriage, passing visitors who were still arriving as we were going away.

I enclose a sketch of a company of good Mussulmans sitting in their mosque in a circle. I have sometimes heard them conversing rapidly in their unknown tongue, and have wondered whether they were engaged in discussing the text of the Koran, or whether they used their mosques as mere places for mundane gossip. We went yesterday to the holiest mosque in Algiers, a small and very antique building, just outside the town wall, crowned by a solitary palm tree, which casts its feathery shadow over the graves at its foot. These graves, of stone, and lettered with Arabic inscriptions, seem as old as Mahometanism. Only great or holy personages are buried here. The chief Mussulman cemetery is up on the hill. Within the precincts of the mosque was a kitchen, where a reverend Moor in a turban was smoking a long pipe, and gravely superintending the cooking of *couscous*, a mixture of meat and rice, or semolina, to be given to the poor—of whom we saw more than one lying about the premises. The sick, or those who travel from long distances have a certain right to asylum in the mosques for three or four days, and



THE FIRE-EATERS DEVOURING THE CACTUS LEAF.

sometimes they have been known to die there; for they never go into hospital unless they require to have some surgical operation performed. We hear many curious facts from the medical men of our acquaintance, among others, the extra prevalence of violent crimes during the continuance of the sirocco, or hot wind, which blows from the desert. Assassinations and bloody quarrels are then on the increase; and of the government medical officers described how, after his regular day's work, he was once occupied from eight in the evening till one in the morning, staunching wounds and mending broken heads which had been brought to pass during that day's sirocco! Algiers is divided into three parts, to each of which is assigned a regular government medical officer, and under him are commissioners of the Bureau de Bienfaisance, whose duty it is to investigate any cases of poverty and sickness brought before them, and to refer such either to the Bureau for relief, or to the doctor for advice. All medicines prescribed by the doctor are made up by the Sisters of Charity, and administered by them; therefore the Catholic Church has its eye directly on the suffering classes. Altogether they seem to get along. The old people, some of them located in an asylum, and I saw about fifteen in a warm ward of the hospital, where they were kept, with particular malady, but because there seemed no where else for them to go to. There is a foundling hospital, and a splendid asylum for female orphans, kept in a grand old Moorish palace, on one of the neighbouring hills, with a statue of St. Vincent de Paul in the Moorish courtyard. There is much poverty in the place, but not of the same fearful nature as that we know in London. The climate is so good, that less clothing and food suffice than in England, and the clear atmosphere and open mode of building the houses, allows no comparison with the horrors of St. Giles or Westminster. The Mussulmans will rarely admit a French doctor into their houses; and though, during the time of the cholera in 1846, government officers entered to succour the sick and count the dead, no sooner had the storm blown over, than they sent deputation of their chief men to beg it might no longer be done. Finally, such is their domestic seclusion, that when Algiers capitulated in 1830 it was promised that no Frenchman should enter any private house. It is, even now, impossible to get them to give accurate returns of the number of their female population; and to ask after the health of a lady is, to a Mussulman, a flagrant sin against good manners; the

"Oh no! we never mention her, Her name is never heard,"

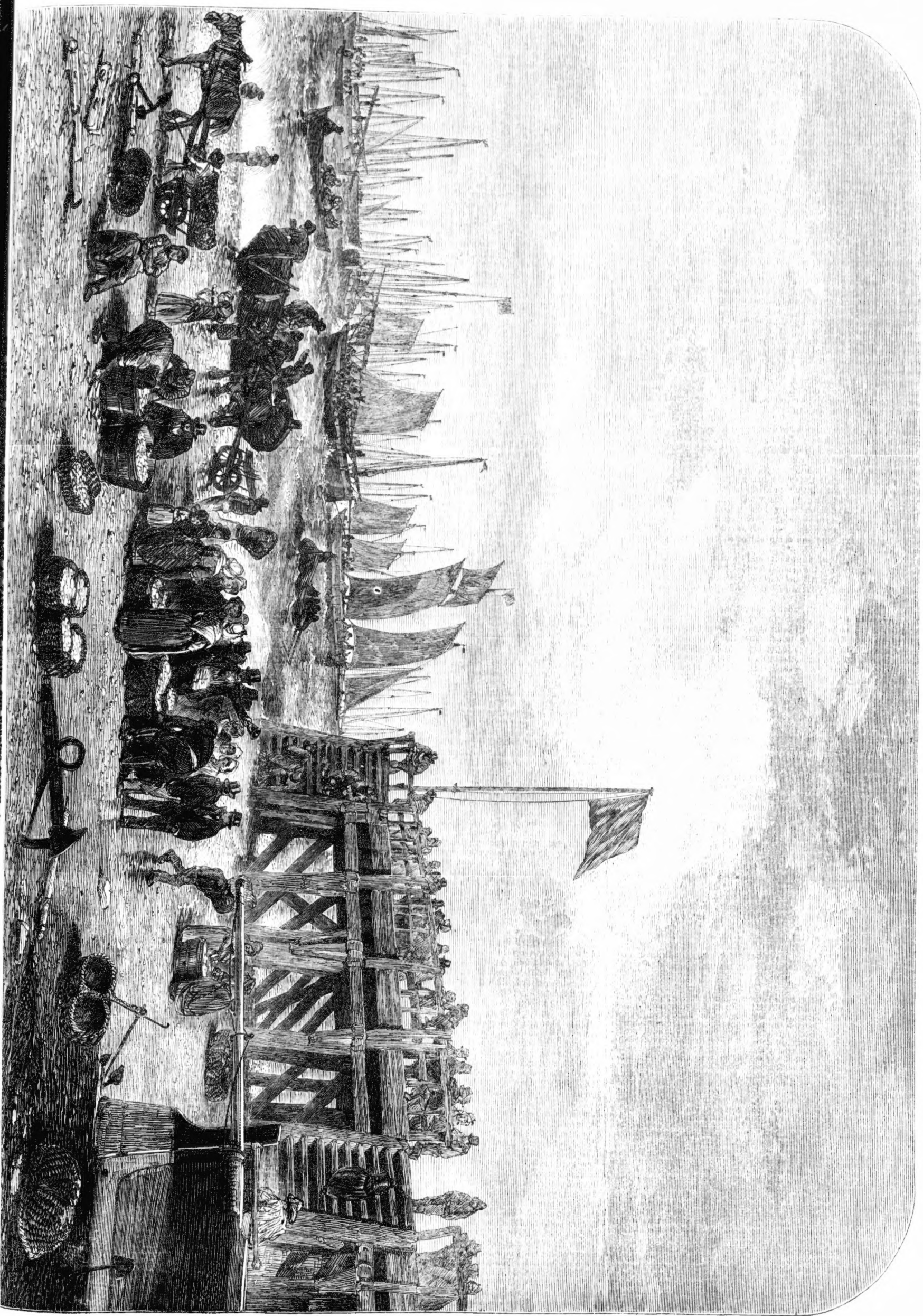
being the principle upon which is constituted every law and custom of domestic life at Algiers.



ARAB FIRE-EATERS.



A PARTY OF MUSSULMANS IN A MOSQUE.



YARMOUTH BEACH DURING THE HERRING SEASON.

There is not in all England a more interesting, bustling, and picturesque spot than Yarmouth Beach during the mackerel or herring season. The roads crowded with ships, luggers, smacks, and craft of every description; the clean, white, sandy beach covered with busy fishermen, sailors, salesmen, and idle lookers-on; the small boats continually passing to and fro between the vessels in the roads and the shore, with full cargoes of bright, shining, pearly fresh fish, which are immediately carried off by innumerable horses, wagons, and quaint little carts, of peculiarly ancient form; the piers and jetties crowded with gaily-dressed visitors; the esplanade facing the sea thronged with carriages; the flags and signals waving from the tops of the pilots' look-outs; and the general medley of herrings, ladies, fishermen, children, fishmongers, and salesmen, Norfolk parsons, coast-guardsmen, and North Sea pilots,—all combine to make a picture, at once highly amusing to the casual visitor, picturesque to the artist, and exceedingly interesting to the man of business, as exhibiting the manner in which an important department of British commerce is carried on.

We often hear people say they have done Ramsgate, Hastings, and the South Coast generally, so often that they are tired of it. We recommend such people to try the shore of the North Sea; they will find plenty of pleasant spots upon it, without going so low down as Scarborough, and Yarmouth is one of them.

The fishery and the business connected with it is one of the principal portions of the trade of Yarmouth. About 200 large, and numerous small, luggers belong to this place, besides several large smacks, that make long voyages to Iceland, and even much further to the north, to fish for cod.

Each lugger requires from eight to twelve hands to man it when at sea, while a large number of persons are constantly employed at home in making nets and other fishing gear—the nets used in taking mackerel and herrings being generally over a mile in length. The luggers are usually owned by tradesmen and residents in Yarmouth and Gorleston, who let them out, with nets, gear, and stores of every description. The captain and mate often share with the owner, but the crews receive so much per "last" on what they catch, without any reference to the price the herrings fetch when landed. We shall in future articles describe the vessels and the manner of fishing more minutely; our present business is more particularly with the town and shore business. Immediately the fish are taken from the sea, they are placed in salt and carried to the shore as quickly as possible. On their arrival there, they are either sold by auction on the beach (as represented in our illustration), or carried to the premises of the owner to be dried. The drying-house is variously constructed and of any dimensions, but must have a paved floor and efficient ventilation.

Herrings that have been salted at sea must be washed before they are dried, which injures them very much. The best description of fish are those that are brought ashore immediately after taking.

The fish are hung in the drying-house upon shelves, each fish supported, separately, on what are called "loves;" a fire is then lighted on the floor of the building, and the smoke allowed to ascend amongst them; the fuel is wood, oak being the best.

The fish are subjected to the smoke during twenty-four hours. The building is then thoroughly ventilated, which being done, the fire is again lighted, and they are again subjected to the same process for twelve hours.

When the fish is of fine quality and cured in this way, it will keep for twelve months, but the demand for bloaters is now so great throughout all parts of England and especially in the metropolis, that the herrings are frequently sent to London twelve hours after they reached the shore.

The fish most liked in London are those that have been least time in the drying-house, and it is now the common practice to smoke them only ten or twelve hours; of course the fish cannot be expected to keep more than a few days under such circumstances.

We have heard of a quantity of herrings being sent up to London that never had a fire under them at all; they were merely hung up in the drying-house for a few hours and slightly dried by the warmth of the building. These fish fetched a high price at market, and the proprietor was requested to send more immediately of a similar description. It is a libel on the real bloater to call such fish by that name. It is generally imagined that for a herring to keep well, it must be exceedingly salt. This is a mistake. A properly-cured bloater will keep six months, and yet not be by any means disagreeably salt. Vast quantities of herrings are sent abroad—to the West Indies, the Mediterranean, and many parts of the Continent.

Scotch herrings are also exported to a great extent; they are under the management of a fishery board, who certify the quality by putting a brand upon the cask. We shall more particularly describe the Scotch fisheries in a future article.

We have so far only spoken of herrings as cured fish, but a very large trade is carried on by the sale of them fresh, as taken from the sea.

To bring the fish fresh to market, of course, the vessels must not shoot their nets far from the land; consequently a smaller description of lugger is used, called a half-and-half boat. The nets are shot overnight, and hauled in at daylight; the vessel then immediately makes for the land, and the fish are sold on the beach, and then carried inland by railway. Not only at Yarmouth is this practice carried on, but at every fishing station on the coast. As soon as the herring makes its appearance, innumerable small craft of every description and size proceed to capture it; sometimes it appears in such quantities that it becomes of little value, and is sold as manure: this is more particularly the case in the spring and early part of the summer, when the fish are not in a fit state to be cured.

In May the fish are so fat that they will not dry, but drip away; they are considered the finest eating (in the fishing localities) at this time.

In March and April they may fetch 2s. 6d. per hundred, while in January and February of the same year, they may be sold by weight to fertilise the land.

BOAT RACE FOR TWO HUNDRED POUNDS.—Henry Clasper, of Newentle-on-Tyne, who has rowed more than 100 races in England and Scotland, and Thomas White, of Bournemouth, a very promising man, rowed a grand match on Tuesday. Clasper was the more practised, and the most famous man; but he is forty-eight years of age, while the other is only twenty-four. At the time of starting the odds were three to one in favour of White, a "price" justified by the result. Clasper never from the first moment to the last standing a shadow of a chance of success. The stake was £200, and the course from Putney to Mortlake, with the tide. White took the best station, and was so eager to get off that there were two false starts, and he at length got away with a lead of nearly half a length. For the next half minute only was there any question of superiority; Clasper reduced the previous lead we have spoken of, and became almost level with his man for five seconds, when White took a greater lead in the next eight strokes than we ever remember to have witnessed, and then went right away, absolutely beginning to ease before half a mile had been accomplished. Clasper moved on bravely, but weakly, to within a few yards of the end of the course. White won at his leisure by at least half a minute.

SHIPWRECK, AND LOSS OF FORTY LIVES.—The *Soubalder*, was on a voyage from the Mauritius to Madras, with 301 coolie passengers, and two native doctors on board, her *Lascar* crew and European master and officers, amounting in all to fifty-two. On the 11th of August, at two a.m., she struck on a reef extending E.S.E. about four miles from the Island of Focic, and of the Spanish group, and became a total wreck. During the day the crew and coolies were got upon the reef from the ship, which was two or three feet under water, but they were unable to get to the island either in the boats or on foot, and the rising of the tide washed a great many coolies off the reef. It was found, on reaching the island, that thirty-eight men and two women were drowned.

MORTALITY OF WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS.—The widowed are found to have a higher rate of mortality than the celibate, who it has been shown have a greater mortality than the married. At all the ages under forty the mortality of widows is higher than the mortality of unmarried women, while at the earlier ages the rate is double. Advancing from the age of forty the mortality of widows is lower than that of spinsters, and at all ages the mortality of widows is greater than that of wives. Among widowers it is found that there is a heavy rate of mortality under the age of thirty, and even under forty, while afterwards they die more rapidly than not only the husbands, but even the bachelors.—*Medical Times.*

LAW AND CRIME.

If the public has not recently become thoroughly acquainted with the shortcomings and the horrors of the present parochial system, it has certainly not been from any secrecy on the part of its administrators. They at least "bring their crimes into the open sun, for all to gape and gaze their worst upon." The rate-payers of Marylebone may attend and listen at their pleasure to the vulgar squabbles among their parochial representatives—to the bickerings and personalities of that august body. The parishioners of St. Pancras (where only recently the death-house was found in use as a dwelling, with collars for furniture) have had full opportunity of listening to the disclosures of fraud and embezzlement on the part of parochial officers, whose crimes have been even more mean, dishonourable, and degrading, than such crimes usually are. Mr. Cook, solicitor and vestry clerk, is clearly proved to have received moneys for which he has not accounted, and the receipt of which he denies. Thereupon he confesses his guilt, begs for mercy, offers a resignation, which is refused, and finally pretending to give up all in his possession belonging to the parish, reserves a certain heavy box which he declares solemnly contains only private papers. His word being doubted, the box is broken open, and found full of parochial documents. At the meeting at which these facts are developed, it is also brought out that Mr. Birchmore, the famous un-relied officer, has also absconded, and that a reward is to be offered for his apprehension. Also, that the clerk to the Board of Directors of the poor has absconded, and is to be placed under a similar disadvantage in his flight. Moreover, that a collector has also taken flight, upon the alleged ground of the unsatisfactory state of the books as left by his predecessor; certainly an odd reason for running away. Here are illustrations enough for one day, surely, of the fiscal economy of a twopenny Parliament! But the authorities of St. Martin's have exemplified in a far more terrible way the utter inhumanity of the parochial mind. It is now some days since, that a few street-bosses and venturesome idlers climbed up the wooden hoarding erected round the mysterious limits of the St. Martin's Cemetery, at Camden Town. The sight they beheld, and which was long after continued upon view, had never yet its equal in horror and atrocity in a London Street. The most morbid imagination, picturing the removal of the contents of a well-filled grave-yard, could not conceive incidents and subjects more ghastly than those laid bare to the eyes of the gazers. We cannot dilate upon the hideous scene. One fact alone must not, however, be suffered to be omitted. The band of brutalised hirelings employed in the churchyard, finding themselves overlooked, dipped their brooms into the putrescent exudations found in the coffins, and with these besmirched the hands and faces of the terror-stricken beholders of their proceedings. It is to be hoped that no abrasion of the skin of these involuntary witnesses may have received the fearful poison, to the effects of which, tainting and corrupting, as it would, every gland and tissue of the body, the pangs of death by arsenic or strychnine would be tolerable. Day after day was this work repeated, in spite of its growing publicity and the horror expressed by the surrounding inhabitants. The hoarding was opened, and the labourers within stoned by the mob. At length, even the men themselves, disgusted with their task and the public execration, withdrew from the business. The mob increased in numbers and fury, but although the police arrived in force, they could not prevent the just demonstration of popular indignation which found vent in tearing down every scrap of the hoarding and burning the whole in one huge pile. When the ground was thus opened, the extent of the disgrace was shown. Legal proceedings were instituted against the contrivers of this surpassing iniquity, when it was found that the Parish had absolutely gone to the length of submitting to Parliament a false statement as to the burial-ground, representing it as containing only a few mouldering relics of one or two ancient burials. And the object of this stupendous fraud, and of the ghastly spectacles in which it had resulted, was simply the acquisition by the Parish of a few feet of ground to be let at a profit to speculative builders.

A new phase of the omnibus monopoly scheme has just been presented at the Westminster Police-court, in the form of a criminal proceeding against certain persons, directors and others, in the employ of the London General Omnibus Company, for conspiracy to libel and injure the Saloon Omnibus Company. It is not the time, at present, as the further hearing of the case stands adjourned, for us to comment upon the evidence affecting any one or more of the defendants. The evidence went to prove the notorious nursing system, by which, in spite of repeated magisterial warnings, every vehicle of the Saloon Company is obstructed and surrounded by the carriages of the monopolists, to be part of a systematic persecution, which the promoters had been so audacious as to attempt to carry out by means of the Court of Bankruptcy, of which it may be remembered a most disgraceful use was sometime since sought to be made against the Saloon Company. We forbear to speculate on the result of the present proceedings to bring the combination within reach of the criminal law, as what is alleged may be untrue, or at least incapable of proof.

The three prisoners charged with having caused the death of many persons (the number at present ascertained is twenty) at Bradford, by the adulteration in mistake of cheap lozenges with arsenic, have been remanded. It will be seen that, on the facts as at present stated, the youth who actually sold the arsenic appears the least morally guilty of the three. He was directed by his master to a cask in a certain corner of a garret for a certain commodity. He went as directed, and thence produced the poison. But, supposing he had chosen the right article, would the moral guilt of the other two have been less? One of them buys, for the sake of fraudulent adulteration to his own profit, a deleterious substance—powdered Derbyshire spar; and the other—a chemist, acquainted with the nature and properties of the substance—sells it to him expressly and knowingly to enable him therewith to cheat in the manufacture of a sweetmeat for children. When the lozenge-maker's stock is overhauled, it is found to be almost recklessly adulterated with villainous compounds. The base of his articles is rubbish, or worse; the colourings by which they are to attract the infantile eye are mineral poisons; and the only honest and fitting ingredients of his wares are there only in sufficient quantities to prevent the cheat being discovered by the palate of a child!

In the Common Pleas, a counsel was arguing upon the point that whatever is planted in the soil, thereby becomes the property of the owner of the land. The Learned Gentleman quoted an old case, in which it had been held, that the planting upon a man's land of a gibbet, with a defunct criminal thereon, entitled the freeholder, after the decay of the body, to the wood and chain. "But in that case," replied Mr. Justice Byles, "the person for whose benefit the structure was erected had no further occasion for it!"

An action for assault was brought by a young Jewess against a French bootmaker, the landlord of apartments formerly occupied by the lady. In cross-examination, curious revelations were made respecting the avocation of the plaintiff, who professed, in a circular, to be "Madame Rachel, whose successful treatment of the hair, complexion, and teeth is so fully appreciated by the crowned heads of Europe." The term "crowned heads," the plaintiff explained to mean "her Majesty," who, as Miss Rachel admitted, did not engage her services upon occasion, but fully appreciated her ability nevertheless. She had "successfully treated the aristocracy and the nobility," to the equal delight and personal improvement of those two antagonistic classes. She possessed the secret of restoring human hair upon places as bald as the palm of the hand, and could remove it even from the crowned head. She could produce upon a lady's cheeks and lips a marble whiteness, by the mysterious aid of "blanchinette," and produce the deep flush of health and beauty on her nose, chin, and forehead, by artfully compounded rouge. Her surname being Leverson, she called herself Rachel. Being an English-Jewess, she represented herself as a Frenchwoman. Having an uncle in New York, she deluded herself into the mistaken idea of having travelled in America, and delighted to give publicity to the imaginary fact. She had certainly once escaped a demand by a discontented printer, by pleading infancy to his demand; but then he ought scarcely to complain, since "madame" intended to pay all her creditors next January. She

kept, to all appearance, a page—in fact, only a little brother, who was well buttoned up. She was a bloomer by profession, and sold a "bloomer"—the genuine "Arabian bloom"—no doubt under the name of Bedouins and their camels—at prices varying from 2s. 6d. to 5s. per box. She could get up a battered old countess in any style, for a ball, for five guineas only. Altogether, in fact, just the sort of lady any clever match-maker might delight in introducing to Mr. Carlyle, were Mrs. T. C. deceased. But she was unimpressed by a landlord in whose house she lodged. He wished to change her from weekly to quarterly, and when she declined, turned her out of house, cosmetics and all, leaving her clothes, bruising her, and her constitution an hysterical turn since last May till now. The eventual sight of the "shindy," moreover, a countess, garbed and arrayed, as in her boudoir, with five guineas ready, awaiting the Arabian bloom, to fit her for the halls of dazzling light. When the poor old soul at last, desperate and frantic, rushed thither as a poor old dowager, or retired melancholy to her pillow, is unknown. A ferocious landlord was sued, and a verdict of £15 was awarded him by a British jury.

A PROPER OBJECT FOR REFORM.—Two boys who escaped from a reformatory and school reformatory have been re-captured, having been identified by means of photographs. The criminal history of one of the natives of Birmingham, is remarkable and painful. Though only a few years of age, he has been once in each of the following prisons in England:—Lewton, Liverpool, Nottingham, Bristol, and one of the following:—twice each in Worcester, Coventry, Warwick, and three times in Stafford; five times in Birmingham, and twice in another, whence he was committed to the reformatory; in all, twenty times, exclusive of upwards of 100 apprehensions, with divers proved or minor offences, committed in various towns in England.

WILLIAM RILEY.—A ticket-of-leave-man, employed as a labourer on the Midland Railway, is in custody, charged with placing a crowbar on a line, near Rotherham.

LIFE OF A BOY SCOUNDREL.—The following passage occurs in a letter which the Rev. Stephen Cattley Barker, chaplain to the Fisk House of Correction, has just made to the magistrates of Monmouthshire:—"While I was removing children in time from the pernicious influence of bad parents, I cannot refrain from recalling attention to the case of a boy named my report of 1853, whose mother had been seven times in prison, and a heartless father, though earning 16s. a week, refused his children, and compelled his family to starve to supply their wants. The boy's mother, of his mother was, 'I don't think a better mother than mine ever was, she had fair play?' and of his father, he has a cupboard with a key, (Journal, Oct. 22nd, 1853) on it; it is a bit of bread as big as this, (hand) is left, he looks it away from us." All that numerous punishments and whippings could do was done to reclaim this boy and his brother, but still they came to prison, till in December last the officer, his miserly father of some hoarded gold, was tried (his own father the principal witness), and sentenced to ten years' penal servitude. Hours afterwards, on his return to prison, he ended his miserable life by hanging himself in the prison cell. He was under twelve years when first sent to prison, and about seventeen when he died."

GAROTTING IN DAISTON.—About six o'clock on Friday evening a gentleman on his way home from the city, whilst passing through Meaton Road, Daiston, was suddenly seized round the neck from behind, held so tightly by the assailant, that utterance was rendered impossible, resistance useless. While in this disagreeable position two men, one of whom tore away his watch and chain (of considerable value), would doubtless have proceeded to rifle his pockets, had they not been interrupted. On being released, and on raising a cry of "Stop there!" three men made off in different directions, and escaped down the back of the neighbourhood. They were apparently well-dressed. Garroting the habit of walking from the city to their residences in the suburbs, do well to change their routes from time to time, as these cowardly rascals in many instances lie in wait for their prey.

AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY.—An American paper says:—"There was a negro living in Pontotoc county (Arkansas) who, some time since, killed a white man, near Fort Smith, and Governor Harris issued orders, to Young Brown, sheriff of that county, to arrest him. He accordingly, with two other men, went to arrest him. When they got near to the house of the negro ran to a crib, where he had fire-arms. One of the sheriff's party to the door of the crib, and seeing the negro with a pistol presented, he away, and the other man who was with him, he then advanced upon the negro and shot him dead. The sheriff then shot the negro, wounding him; at the same time, the sheriff received a shot in the head, the ball entering the upper part of the skull. The sheriff, though badly wounded, clinched the negro, but having no knife, the negro cut him all to pieces, thus ended his troubles. The negro, being wounded, and finding he could get away, shot himself. His mother and sisters laid him out, thinking he would give him a decent burial; but Mr. Brown's father-in-law took the body, threw it on a log-heap, and burned it up."

POLICE.

UNCHRISTIANITY OF FIREWORKS.—Mr. Norton, in imposing penalties on persons brought before him for letting off fireworks on the night of the 5th instant, showed that there was a time and place for all things, and one could object to the discharge of fireworks at proper places, as the afforded amusement to many; but it was extraordinary to him (Mr. Norton) how persons who were Christians should keep up these practices on the 5th of November for the mere purpose of annoying and insulting the Roman Catholic neighbours; and would ask how they should like, if Roman Catholic were the established religion of the country, to be insulted once a year by some such device? For his own part, he would do his utmost to put down such displays by punishing to the utmost persons brought before him on such charges.

A CLOWN IN TROUBLE.—Frederick George Menzies, with the painted face and grotesque garb of a stage clown, was charged with stealing a watch from Mr. Earstone, the clerk, who was writing the evidence, asked the defendant how he described himself.

Prisoner—Well, sir, I have been a sailor, but I broke my leg, and only go to sea, and so I engaged myself for three shillings a day to a Guy Fawkes exhibition.

The complainant, who gave his evidence in a rather eccentric way, said that about eleven o'clock that forenoon he was passing through Union Street, Whitechapel, when he saw a huge Guy Fawkes, with a great crowd about him, and the prisoner, who he said was the "Harlequin," came up to him, stretching out his hands towards his pockets, and then went away again. Immediately afterwards, he found his chain hanging loose, and the watch gone. He accused the prisoner, and gave him into custody.

The prisoner declared that all he did was to go to the complainant, and hold out his hand quite open, saying, "Please, give me a halfpenny," but he knew nothing of the watch, and the complainant must have been robbed of it by some of the crowd.

The complainant, being re-examined, admitted that it must have been three minutes after the prisoner left him that he discovered his loss, when turning the corner of the street, but still he believed that the prisoner was his watch.

Mr. Hammill considered the case doubtful against the prisoner, whom he discharged.

DANGEROUS HOUSE.—Mr. John Moncrie, landlord of the dilapidated remains of a public-house, in Royal Mint Street, Rosemary Lane, appeared before Mr. Yardley to show cause why he should not be compelled to pull down the house.

A police-inspector said the George the Fourth had been a dangerous structure, and the interior of it was the hotbed of fever and cholera, from a great number of Irish families huddled together in the various rooms. The appearance of the old house was most alarming. It had been for several years in a ruinous and dilapidated condition. On the 20th of August, Mr. Selfe made an order upon the owner to take down the brick wall in front, which had bulged, and was very defective. In fact, the order amounted to a condemnation of the whole building. Since the order was issued, the house had been partially demolished, the roof taken off, and the whole of the front of the house removed to the second floor. The whole of the interior of the house was exposed, and business was carried on below the bar. There was a hoarding round the exterior of the house, and an open in the hoarding for the admission of customers.

Mr. Yardley was surprised that such a dilapidated building had been licensed.

Inspector Price said that the magistrates of the Tower division did not know the condition of the house, and it would not be licensed again. The remains of the building were now "struttered up."

The defendant said he paid £118 to a brewer to go into the house, and wanted to remain in the house as long as he could, and obtain compensation for his money.

Mr. Yardley ordered that the ruin should be removed in twenty days.

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